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## Harvard College Library



### FROM THE BRIGHT LEGACY

One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

**JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT**  
of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

**HENRY BRIGHT, JR.,**  
who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1686. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.



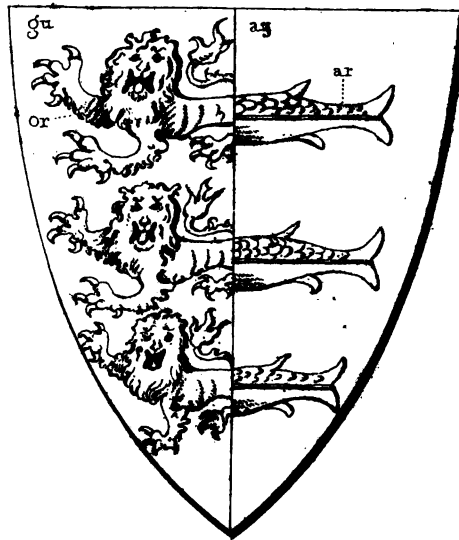












THE ARMS OF THE TOWN OF GREAT YARMOUTH  
FROM AN ANCIENT SHIELD DISCOVERED ON  
THE CEILING OF YARMOUTH CHURCH. NOV<sup>r</sup> 1847.

**A Booke**  
OF THE  
**Foundacion and Antiquitye**  
OF THE TOWNE OF  
**Greate Bermouth:**

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT WRITTEN IN THE  
TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH :

With Notes and an Appendix.

*Henry Mansel*

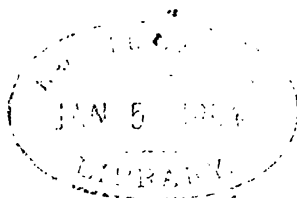
EDITED BY  
**CHARLES JOHN PALMER, F.S.A.**



GREAT YARMOUTH:  
PRINTED FOR THE EDITOR,  
BY  
CHARLES SLOMAN, KING-STREET.

1847.

Br 5248.71  
~~942.60.5~~



Bright fund.

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TO  
DAWSON TURNER, ESQ., M.A.,

F.R.S., F.S.A., F.L.S.,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

&c. &c. &c.

TO WHOSE ZEAL AND LEARNING  
THE TOWN OF GREAT YARMOUTH

IS INDEBTED

FOR THE ELUCIDATION AND PRESERVATION OF  
MANY OF HER ANTIQUITIES;

**THIS VOLUME,**

NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT,

IS

WITH FEELINGS OF ESTEEM AND GRATITUDE

INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS FAITHFUL AND OBLIGED

FRIEND AND SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.



## Preface.

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HENRY MANSHIP, the reputed author of the manuscript now for the first time printed, was a Merchant at Great Yarmouth, where, as he informs us, (p. 3) he was “bredd and borne.” He took an active part in promoting the improvement of the Harbour, upon the goodness of which, he was conscious the prosperity of the town entirely depended. He says, that he “manye tymes travayled in and about these busynes;” and in 1560, when the town was reduced to great distress, in consequence of the choking of the old channel, and of the necessity which existed of forming a new one he was appointed one of a committee of twelve persons “to go downe to viewe and appoyntte where the havyne shall be cutte owght at thys tyme; and then to come ageyn to sertefy unto Mr. Balys and the howse where it shall be cutte and stoppd.” By his instrumentality a Dutch engineer named Joas, or Joyce Johnson, “a man of rare knowledge and experience in works of that nature,” was brought from Holland, and appointed master of the works, with wages of four shillings per day; and by him

the seventh and present haven was constructed. On the eleventh of February, 1562, being then one of the forty-eight, (or Common Council Men) MANSHIP was appointed a collector of the "charnel rents"\* with George King.

He probably compiled his work towards the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, at which time, in consequence of the success attending the new haven constructed by Johnson, the town, he says "greatlie flourished in the buyldinge of houses," several of which still remain to attest the truth of the narrator's remark, and exhibit some curious, and in one or two instances very perfect and pleasing, specimens of the style of interior decoration peculiar to that period.†

The work now printed undoubtedly provided materials for the very discursive History, written by his son, HENRY

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\* These were rents receivable from houses devised by Sybilla Flath, "a woman of singular virtue and dignity," widow of William Flath, a Burgess of Yarmouth, for the support of a chantry which she had built over a charnel-house in the Church Yard, where Obits were celebrated by two priests, under a licence from John Salmon, Bishop of Norwich, in 1302, and a Bull of Pope, Clement v., dated the fifth of October, 1305, confirming such licence. This chantry was dissolved in 1535, and the rents applied to the support of the haven; but the charnel-house remained till 1588, when it was pulled down. The bones it had contained were buried under the east wall of the church yard; and the materials were used in building the lower wall of the mount, afterwards called the Chapel Mount, erected where the Yarmouth Hospital now stands.

† The Editor has printed, for private distribution, forty-three engravings, by Henry Shaw, Esq., F.S.A., of the carvings yet remaining in a dwelling-house on the South Quay, his residence and property, which was built by Benjamin Cowper, a wealthy merchant, who was Burgess in Parliament for the borough in 1620 and 1623.

MANSHIP, who was also a native of Yarmouth. The latter was one of the scholars at the Free Grammar School, which had been established in 1551, by the appropriation to that purpose of the hall and chapel belonging to the then recently dissolved Hospital of St. Mary (now called the Children's Hospital.) As a school-boy, he says, "I was more willing to help to carry a mound of earth in my hand (for erecting the mount above-mentioned) than a satchel of books on my shoulder." He became an Attorney of the Borough Court, and Town Clerk, which office he resigned in 1586. He was removed from being one of the forty-eight (or Common Council Men) in 1604, for saying, that "Mr. Damer and Mr. Wheeler, the Burgesses in Parliament, had behaved themselves in parliament like sheep, and were both dunces." An arbitrary proceeding, as it would now be considered ; but it should be borne in mind, that the Corporation at that time claimed and exercised the exclusive right of returning members to Parliament by an inquest of twelve men, six being Aldermen and six Common Council Men, or sometimes by a majority of the assembly ; and, as two of their own body were usually chosen, they were no doubt extremely jealous of their reputation.\*

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\* In 1681 the whole body of "Freemen" claimed and established the right of voting in the election of representatives, and continued to exercise the franchise exclusively, until Household Suffrage was added by the Reform Act. The number of "Freemen" polled at the election in July 1847, was 918 ; the number of "Householders" 644.



After this occurrence, Manship the younger appears to have directed his attention to the compilation of his History ; and in 1612, he obtained leave of the Corporation "to go to the Hutch\* and peruse and copy records for forty days." He afterwards regained the confidence of the Corporation ; for, in 1616, he was sent to London to manage some public business, but was accused of having on this occasion improperly "borrowed money in the town's name," and again fell into disgrace.

His work was finished in 1619, and is replete with extravagant commendation of the town. It is burdened with numerous quotations, and is strongly marked with the pedantry of the times in which it was written. It is very defective in arrangement ; but the writer was a man of considerable industry and research, and having had free access to the Town Records, we are indebted to him for the preservation of many curious facts.

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\* An ancient chest in which the Corporation kept their records. It formerly stood in the vestry, and is now in the Guildhall. The two keys are curious. Manship the younger says, that in his time it contained an "Exemplification," written in the Saxon character, called the "Yarmouth Domesday," but this had disappeared when Swinden wrote his History. *Swinden*, p. 7.—It still contains some autograph letters from Secretary Walsingham and other statesmen ; as also some certificates under the hands and seals of the Commissioners, who, at the restoration, were appointed to inquire into the conduct of those who had been in authority in the town during the Commonwealth. The town seals, (some of which are not now used,) are kept in the Hutch.

The Corporation voted Manship £50 for his performance ; but his expectations of profit or fame were probably not realized, for on the seventh of April, 1620, we find that, “ according to an order made in open Sessions against him, for publishing a pamphlet extolling himself and defaming the town falsely, and for divers other abuses and misdemeanors, whereof he was in open Court accused and found guilty, he came with all submission acknowledging his faults and offences, as heartily sorry for so doing.”

He died in 1626, at an advanced age ; and on the third of July in that year, his widow petitioned the Corporation “ for some allowance for her late husband’s book, wherein he made collections and abstracts of the Town Charters.” She was referred to Mr. Hardware, and to the Chamberlains and Churchwardens, who, it appears, granted her an annuity.

Manship the younger only alludes to the Manuscript now published, as “ a parchment book, which (he says) I have also perused, containing the originality or antiquity of Yarmouth ;” and it is difficult to account for his not having mentioned his father as the author, if such were the fact. Yet it is equally difficult to suppose, that Blomefield and Ives were both mistaken in attributing it to the father.

The manuscript now printed is very neatly and carefully written in the caligraphy of the period, upon one side of

foolscap paper, and is bound in a parchment cover ; an illuminated missal having apparently been cut up to keep the leaves together, which was unhappily a common practice for some time after the dispersion of the monastic libraries.

What became of the manuscript during the century immediately succeeding the death of the younger Manship, has not been discovered ; but it must have been carefully preserved, as it is still in a very clean and perfect state.

That the Rev. FRANCIS BLOMEFIELD, became the possessor of it, is evident from the notes in it in his own hand-writing. His book-plate is also inserted ; and he quotes the manuscript in his *History*, or, as he terms it his *Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, which was first published in 1736.

Blomefield died in 1751, leaving his *Essay* in an incomplete state ; and his collections being dispersed, this manuscript probably at that period became the property of his distinguished contemporary and friend, THOMAS MARTIN, Esq., F.S.A., of Palgrave, in Suffolk, (known by the familiar cognomen of "honest Tom Martin,") the author of the *History of Thetford*, who has written his name on the parchment cover.

Martin married the widow of Peter Le Neve, Esq., Norroy King at Arms, by which alliance he became possessed of the large and valuable collections of that "industrious and

perfect antiquary," as he is designated by Blomefield, "who, for above forty years, at his great expense and immense trouble, amassed together the greatest fund of antiquities in and for this county, that were ever collected for any single county in the kingdom." It is highly probable that this manuscript had been in the possession of Le Neve, and that it had been given by him to Blomefield. Le Neve was born in 1661, and died in 1724.

Upon the death of Martin, in 1771, his extensive and curious collections were dispersed; and this manuscript then came into the possession of JOHN IVES, Esq., F.S.A., of Great Yarmouth, who has written his name on the cover immediately under that of Martin, and also in the inside of the cover, with the date 1772.

Ives, who was a personal friend and admirer of Martin, composed and printed a Pastoral Elegy on his death, which he addressed to their mutual friend Mr. Thomas Barber, of the Customs at Great Yarmouth. He also purchased many of the most valuable manuscripts which had belonged to Martin, and published some of them under the title of *Select Papers chiefly relating to English Antiquities*; and he quotes this manuscript in his *Remarks upon the Garianonum of the Romans*, p. 7.

SWINDEN, in his *History of Yarmouth*, published in 1772, makes frequent quotations from *Manship's History*, but does not appear to have been aware of the existence of this manuscript, although Mr. Ives in his Preface to that work, expressly says Martin "was pleased, through my hands, to communicate several curious original papers;" and the terms in which he mentions the work of the "industrious Manship" are only applicable to that of the son.

Mr. Ives dying prematurely in 1776, his numerous manuscripts and curious printed Books were dispersed.

What then became of this manuscript is not known. It was first seen by the Editor in 1846, in the possession of James Sparke, Esq., of Bury St. Edmund's, who obligingly placed it at his disposal. Mr. Sparke says, in a letter addressed to the Editor on the 9th May, 1846, "I cannot give you any trace of the *History of Yarmouth*. I found it amongst the books of a deceased brother, who had a large collection, was very fond of Antiquities, and would seize every opportunity of purchasing anything of the kind."

DAWSON TURNER, Esq., who has rescued many of our local Antiquities "from the iron teeth of time and the ruthless hand of ignorance," considering the manuscript of sufficient importance, suggested its publication; and the Editor, under

the passport of his name, ventures to send it forth to the public.

The whole of the manuscript has been printed precisely as it was written, with the exception of some official documents, which, having already appeared in Swinden's History, are omitted. The original orthography has been carefully preserved throughout.

The following note, in the beautifully minute and very elegant handwriting of Mr. Ives, appears upon the inside of the parchment cover :—

“ This being Manship's the elder's History, is a rare and valuable manuscript.”

And he has also written the following note on the first page :—

“ It is probable that Henry Manship the younger took his History of Yarmouth from his father's copy, adding many particulars.”

Blomefield, in a manuscript note, says, that a copy of Manship the Son's History was then “ among the archives of the Corporation.”

There is no copy now in the “ Hutch ;” nor are many of the documents, which are enumerated in an inventory made in 1612, now to be found there. Whether they still exist among the archives in the custody of the Town Council, or of what those archives consist, it is impossible to say, as

that body have rejected a proposal, supported by the late Mayor, (W. N. Burroughs, Esq.,) that they should be examined, and a catalogue made of their contents. This decision excites surprise, at a time when we find that the Town Councils of Norwich, Dover, and other places, the Chapters of Cathedral Churches, and public bodies having the control of corporate documents, have commenced the desirable work of putting their respective manuscripts in order, with a view both to their better preservation, and also that their contents may be generally known, and access to them afforded whenever they are found to possess any historical interest.

For the purpose of rendering this little work more generally amusing, the Editor has, in the "Notes," made some extracts from the work of Manship the younger, and has added some other particulars which he conceived might possess local interest. He is aware that he has contributed but little to what is already known to those who have studied the history of the borough, and his merit can therefore only consist in having placed what he has gathered in a more accessible form. He hopes to avoid the charge of presumption, by stating, that the Notes are written, not for the learned but for the general reader.

A well-arranged and carefully edited History of the Borough, brought down to the period of publication, is a work greatly to be desired. The materials are abundant, and well deserve to be rescued from their present obscurity.

Three quarters of a century have elapsed since the publication of Swinden's History. In addition to the contributions of Preston and Druery, collections have during that period been made by the late Rev. Richard Turner, B.D., (for many years minister of the parish,) and by the late Robert Cory, Esq., F. S. A., who entertained the idea of writing a History of the Town. The costly library of Dawson Turner, Esq., contains a large collection of unpublished papers relating to the Borough, and is rich in illustrations of our local antiquities (see *Ewing's Norfolk Topographer's Manual*). Mr. Joseph Davey has also made very extensive collections, which, if not published by himself, will be of great value to any future historian, as he has with infinite labour compiled a copious index to all his papers.\*

To James Sparke, Esq., for having so kindly placed the manuscript in his hands, the Editor expresses his grateful

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\* Mr. Davey, it is understood, is now revising his *Historical Notices of St. Nicholas' Church* for publication, to which an account of the works now in progress will be added.



thanks. He also acknowledges his obligations to those kind friends who have rendered him much valuable assistance, assuring them of his regret, that the duties of a laborious profession have increased his conscious inability to perform those of an Editor in a manner more satisfactory to himself.

C. J. P.

GREAT YARMOUTH,

*St. Nicholas' Day, 1847.*

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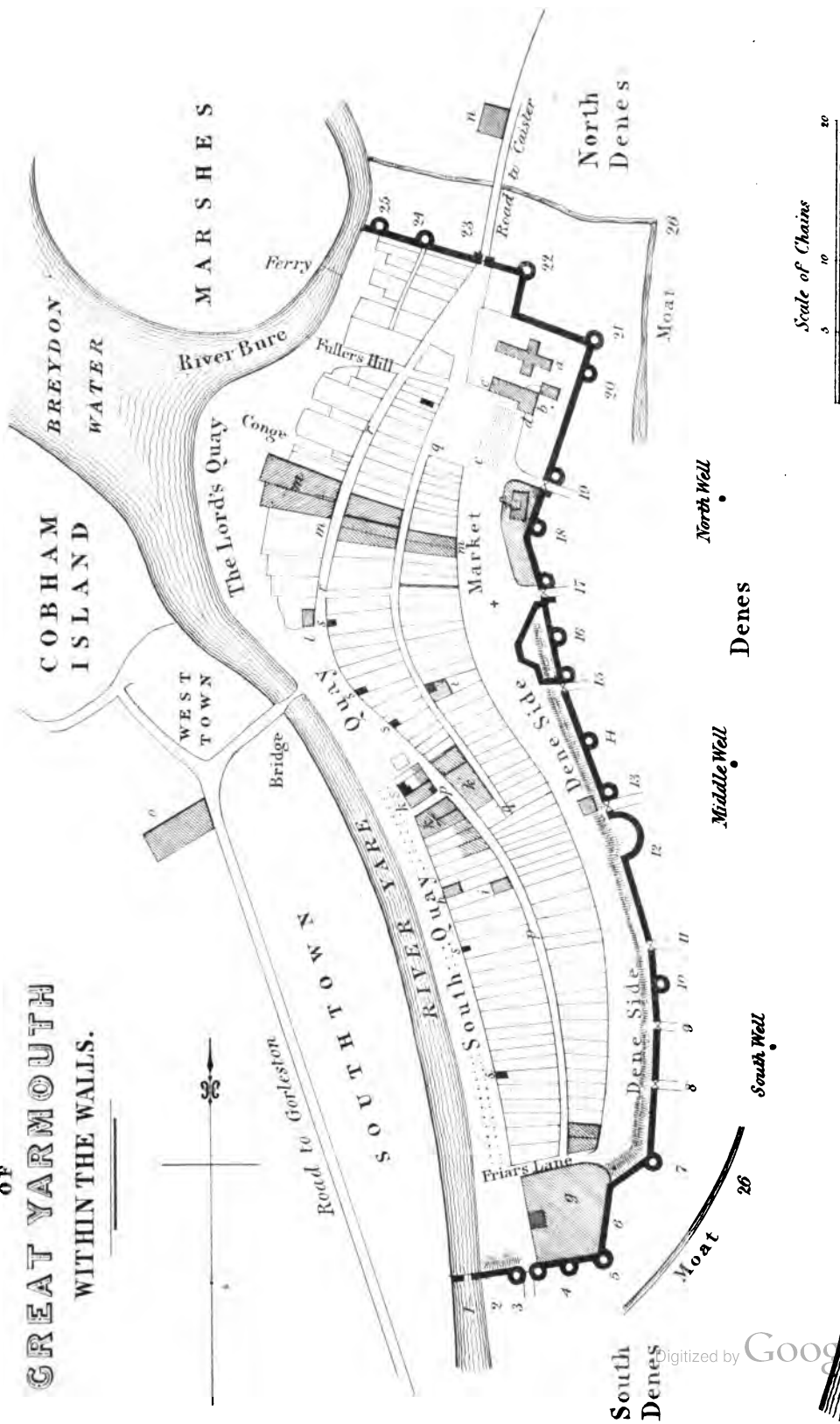


# Ground Plan

OF

## GREAT YARMOUTH

WITHIN THE WALLS.



THE SEA

## EXPLANATION OF THE PLAN.

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- The *Nack Nases* represent the Rows or narrow Streets running east and west.
1. A Jetty on each side of the river with a boom between, which was kept close during the night and strictly watched.
  2. A mount of earth, called "The South Mount," higher than the town wall and commanding the river.
  3. The first Gate, called "The South Gate" or "The Great Gate." On the east tower of this Gate "it's very convenient a murdering piece should be planted," say the Commissioners in 1635. King William III. entered by this Gate when he landed at Yarmouth on the 18th of October, 1692.
  4. The first Tower.
  5. The second Tower, called "The Friar's Tower, adjoining the precincts of the Dominican Friars.
  6. On the east side of the wall, at this point, Ravelins and other exterior works were constructed in 1588, when an attack was expected from the Spanish Armada.
  7. The third Tower, called "The South-East Tower."
  8. The second Gate.
  9. The third Gate.
  10. The fourth Tower.
  11. The fourth Gate, called "Little Mount Gate."
  12. Here there was another Gate, which was walled up soon after the adjoining "Mount" was erected. This work was completed, says Manship the younger, in 1569, "by the diligent oversight of the magistrates and willing obedience of the people." In 1588, "which was the year of the coming of the great (yet by God made weak) Spanish Armada," it was strengthened "by the special direction of Sir Thomas Leighton."
  13. The fifth Gate and the fifth Tower. Near this Gate was the Castle. The Stables of the late John Penrice, Esq. were erected upon what was called the Castle Yard, and the adjoining Row was called the Castle Row.
  14. The sixth Tower.
  15. The sixth Gate and the seventh Tower.
  16. The eighth Tower, called "The Guard-Tower." Here there was an enclosure called "The Main-Guard," with a mount and wall encompassing it, higher than the town wall and extending northward to the next gate.
  17. The seventh Gate, called "The Market-Gate," and the ninth Tower.
  18. The tenth Tower, called "The Hospital Tower," adjoining the precincts of St. Mary's Hospital.
  19. The eighth Gate, called "The Pudding-Gate," and eleventh Tower. On the east side of the wall at this place was the burial-ground for those who died of the plague in 1579. Two thousand persons are computed to have died of this pestilence between May and Michaelmas.
  20. The ninth Gate, "long since walled up," says Swinden, and the twelfth Tower, which was taken down in 1642.
  21. The thirteenth Tower, called "King Henry's Tower," probably because it was the first erected, and named in honor of King Henry III., who first granted the burgesses a charter to enclose their town with a wall and a ditch.

22. The fourteenth Tower.  
 23. The tenth Tower and last Gate, called "The North Gate."  
 24. The sixteenth Tower.  
 25. The sixteenth and last Tower, called "The North-West Tower."  
 Note.—If the Towers belonging to the North and South Gates be reckoned, there were eighteen Towers. In 1635 thirty pieces of ordnance were placed on these Gates and Towers, which had previously been defended by thirteen pieces only. From the South Gate to the Market Gate the walls were "rampered."  
 26. The Moat or ditch which encompassed the walls, with a bridge at each gate, "passable with boats and keels," says Manship the younger, "which did convey things necessary for such as did inhabit upon the Dene side or east part of Yarmouth."
- 
- a. Saint Nicholas' Church.  
 b. Priory of Benedictine Monks. Cell to Norwich.—All Cathedral Priors were of this Order, except Carliol.  
 c. The old Guildhall, which extended across the present gateway leading into the church yard.  
 d. Parsonage, built in 1718, upon the site of the kitchen belonging to the old Guildhall.  
 e. The Church Trees.  
 f. Hospital of St. Mary. This was the only monastic building which, at the Dissolution, was applied to the purposes of charity or education. Within these precincts there was a house which, in the time of the Commonwealth, was inhabited by Miles Corbet, one of the Regicides: the site is now occupied by a Public House called the "Weavers' Arms."  
 g. Precincts of the Dominican Friars. The exact boundary to the north cannot be defined, but the whole extent exceeded six acres, comprising gardens, a dove-cote, &c.  
 h. House of Thomas de Drayton. See p. 76.  
 j. Toll-House. See p. 57.  
 k. Precincts of the Convent of Franciscan Friars. The extent cannot accurately be defined. In 1848 some crypts were discovered in making the cellars of a public-house called "The Turk's Head." They were destroyed for the convenience of the new building. Their possessions were probably extensive, as "Messuages, Lands, Gardens," and "Orchards" are mentioned. At the dissolution, the whole was granted to Sir Richard Cromwell, Knt., great grandfather of the Protector.  
 l. Old Custom-House.  
 m. Precincts of the Convent of Carmelite Friars, which are supposed to have extended from the King's Head in the Market-Place to the neighbourhood of the Conge on the North Quay; but the boundaries cannot be traced. *Combustis fuit Ecclesia Carmel: Jersem. 1509, l. Apr. cum toto conventu, &c.*  
 n. Leper Houses.  
 o. Church of St. Mary *ultra pontem*, the precincts of which are now occupied by a Tannery.  
 p. Middlegate Street.  
 q. Blind Middle Street.  
 r. Conge Street.  
 s. Elizabethan Houses.  
 t. Cell of Augustin Friars, in what is still called the *Austyn Row*—not mentioned by Tanner.

**Greate Vermouthē.**



**A**

**Booke of the Foundation**

**and**

**Antiquitye of the saide Towne,**

**and of**

**Diverse Specialle Matters**

**concerninge the same.**



## Greate Yermouth.

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**In this Booke** there is conteyned a trewe declaracion of the firste foundation of the Towne of Greate Yermouth, and of manye libertyes and prevyldges graunted by the kinges of this lande unto the saide Towne. And of diverse and sondrye of the moste Bountifull liberalities and gyftes from Tyme to tyme geven and bestowed uppon that Town, as well for and towards the maynteinenge of the same Towne, and of the Inhabitanes thereof, whose charges have alwaies ben verye greate, and their Landes and Revenewes verye smalle, for theye doe live onlie by there trades unto the Seas, and thereby doe maynteine themselves, there wyfes and families, and the wholle Estate of the said Towne, whose florishenge State hathe ben alwaies accompted by the kinges of this lande a matter of greate importance for the Realme and Commonwealth, and contrarywise, the decaye thereof hathe ben reputed a greate detrymente to the Realme and Comonwelthe, which twoe thinges have moste cheiflie and principallie happened sondrye tymes, that is to saye, the prosperitie of the saide Towne by reason of a good haven and harborroughe, and the decaye thereof



by reason of an evell haven and harborroughe. ~~As~~ also for and towardes the makinge, repairenge, and preservacion of the Haven of the same town from tyme to tyme, whichè hathe coste manye greate somes of monye, as hereafter shall appeare, by reason that the said towne beinge scituated uppon a sandye foundation, the Haven thereof could not in longe tyme in former Ages be broughte to anye firme or sewer ground-worke or stage, but alewayes within the compas of twelve, fourtene, sixtene, or twenty yeres, the Towne was alwayes enforced to cutte and digge a new Haven in sondrye places overthwarte the Denne into the sea; as by diverse grauntes from the Kinges of this Realme, and by sondrye mencions and trenches cutte over the Denne, as-well by northe the Towne as by southe the Towne manifestlie appeareth to be seene, the olde trenches alwayes stoppinge up with sand and mannor caste out of the sea into the mouthe thereof, and changinge his course continuallye more and more southerlye, untill now of late yeres, that yis to saye, soone after the beginenge of the Reigne of our moste Gracious Sovereign Lady Quene ~~Elizabeth~~, the said haven, by the greate skille and conninge of a man experienced in water-workes, whoe was procured and broughte from beyonde the seas at the greate costes and charges of that Towne, was newe trenched and cutte out over the Denne into the sea. And afterwardes, the said Haven, haveinge a luste to ronne agene to the southward, was substanciallye sette upon and by greate coste wroughte withe manye greate workes of brushe-wood, tymber, and stones, and thereby the same Haven was broughte into one certeyn course to ronne out into the sea betwene two greate peeres, which thyng our predecessors could not

compass or attayne unto, so that for wante of suche two greate peeres the haven felle manye tymes in decaye, and consequentlie the Towne did succede in ruynouse estate and povertye, as by auntyente Recordes manifestlie it doeth appere. And therefore to the intent that thes thinges mighte remayne for a memoriall to all of this Corporacion whiche now be, and that hereafter shall succede to be providente for the upholdinge of the state of the said Towne, the whiche hathe ben from tyme to tyme so greatlie favored and so graciouslie upholden by the meere goodnes and bountifull liberalities of so manye noble Kinges and Quenes of this Realme, as a Towne of greate importance and a member of no small accompte in this Comonwelthe, and to the intent there maye be some good presidentes lefte unto them in the tyme of there necessities, to make and frame there sutes and petitions as from tyme to tyme occasions shal-be ministred unto them, the wrighter hereof hathe taken some paynes to sette downe in this booke some good instructions for the better direction and more reedye and spedier dispatche of those busynes, whiche muste needes be taken in hand and followed by the carefull travayles of some good men of the same Towne, knowenge beste there owne case and greefe. And suche he doubteth not but God will rayse upp, even of that Corporacion that shal-be meete and willenge to doe good unto there native Contrye and Towne in the whiche they have bene bredd and borne, (as the said wryghter hereof was, whoe manye tymes travayled in an about thees busynes) or at the leaste to further the good of that Corporacion whereof they be members, and wherein they have lived and ben trayned upp the moste pte of there dayes: the

which travayles and paynes noe doubt wille redounde to the honor of Almightye God, and to there owne greate praise and comendacion, whiche God grant maye receyve his good blessinge at all tymes for the advancement of his glorye, and for the prosperitie of the said Towne in his feare.

**Amen.**

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**F**irst of the Antiquitye of the Towne and  
Burroughe of Greate  
**P**ermouth.

**T**he verye seate of that Towne, that ys to saye, the place and grounde whereuppon the Towne is buylded, and nowe dothe stand, was percell of a greate sande lyinge within the mayne sea, at the mouthe of the fludd or ryver called **H**ierus, beinge contynuallye under water and over flownen withe the sea, of which ryver the name of the same Towne was derived when it was firste named, vidz. **P**iermouth, or otherwise without aspiration it was called **P**ermouth, or in Latine **P**ernemutha, as it is a Towne seated at the mouthe of Hierus, or Jerus. And, the tyme that yt was a sand in the sea was when Kynge **C**anutus reigned in Englande and longe before, whiche was aboute the yere of our Saviour Jesus Christe, his Incarnacion,

**O**ne Thousande, as by auntyente recordes thereof yt doeth appeare.



## Greate Yermouthe.

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**In the Tyme** of the Reigne of Kinge Edwarde the Confessour the saide sand beganne to growe into sighte at the lowe water, and to become more showlder at the mouthe of the said Flodde called Hierus, and then there were channelles for Shippes and Fyshermen to pass and enter into that arme of the Sea for utterance of there Fishe and Merchandizes, which were conveyed to diverse partes and places aswell in the Countye of Norfolke as in the Countye of Suffolke, by reason that all the wholle leuell of the marshes and fennes which now are betwixte the Towne of Yermouthe and the Citie of Norwiche, were then all an arme of the Sea, entering within the Lande by the mouthe of the Hierus. And this was about the yeare of oure Savior M and XL<sup>th</sup> and long before.

In the tymes of the Reygnes of Kinge Harrolde and of Kinge William y<sup>e</sup> Conqueror, the saide sande did growe to be drye and was not overflowen by the Sea, but waxed in heichte, and also in greatnes, in so muche as greate store of people of the Counties of Norff. and Suffolke did resorte thither, and did pitche Tabernacles

and Bootheres for the enterteynenge of such Seafaringe men and Fishermen and Merchaunts as wold resorte unto that place, eyther to sell their Herringes, fish, and other comodoties, and for providenge suche things as those Seamen did neede and wante. The which thinge caused greate store of Seafaringe men to resorte thither; but especiaillie the Fishermen of this Land; as also greate numbers of the Fishermen of Fraunce, Flaunders, and of Holland, Zealande, and all the lowe Contryes yerelie, from the feaste of Sainte Michaell th Archangell untill the feast of Sainte Martine, aboute the takinge, sellinge, and buyenge of Herringes, and at other tymes in the yere aboute other kindes of fishe. And then in the tyme of the Reigne of Kinge ~~William Rufus~~, Kinge of this Realme, one ~~Herbertus~~, Bishopp of the Sea of Norwiche, perceyvinge greate resorte and concourse of people to be daylie and yerelie uppon the said Sande, and intendinge to provide for there sowles healthe, did founde and buylde uppon the said Sande a certen Chappell for the devotion of the people resortinge thither, and therein did place a Chappelayne of his owne to saye and read divine service, and to receyve such oblations and offerings as the people wolde geve and bestowe upon him, and this continued aboute the space of fourtye yeres at the leaste. ~~Afterwardes~~, in the tymes of the Reignes of Kinge ~~Henry~~ the Firste, Kinge ~~Stephen~~, Kinge ~~Henry~~ the Seconde, and Kinge ~~Richard~~ the Firste, Kinges of this Lande, the said Sande did growe into firme grounde by the providence of Almightie God, and was conioyned to the mayne contynent of the yland of Est-Flegge on the northe parte. The which thinge caused muche People aswell of the Citty of Norwiche, as of the Counties of

Norff. and Suff. to repaier unto the said place, whoe beinge so gathered together, beganne to buylde howses and dwellinge-places there. And the foresaid Kinges beinge enformed of the resorte of people there, by there commission did appoynte a Ruler and Governour of the People and Place, and called the said Governour by the name of there **Proboste** of Jernemouthe. And the Bisshop of Norwiche seeing such Buyldengs made, and store of people resortinge thither, buylded by himself, and by the devotion of good people, a fayer and goodlie Church, for the honor of God and Saint Nicholas. To the whiche Church beinge buylded were geven manye offeringes and tythes, by the Seamen thither resortinge. And thus theis people beinge gathered together, and thes habitacions being buylded, they contynewed under the Rule and Governance of the foresaid **Proboste**, who tooke diverse and sondrye duties for the Kinge of the said Inhabitants, and of all others repayrenge thither, and exequeted Justice in the King's maiestyes name, accordinge to his comission yeldinge accompte thereof to the Kinges maiestie.\* And so this maner and order of government contynewed in this place durenge the tymes of the reignes of

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\* **Bt** pt Remembered that noe maner of person durenge the tyme of the Rule and government of the Provoste of Yermouthe, durste presume to discharge or Land enye fishe, herringes, or other gooddes, or m'rchandizes there, but firste he muste have Leave and License from the said provoste so to doe, and for the same muste paye unto the said provoste certen duties aswell for the thinges discharged as for all maner of thinges laden and carryed from thense. And then the shippes and vesselles did arrive and come for that purpose to a certen place called the (Congee,) wch is yet knowen by evidennce to be in the north ende of the said towne at this daye. The said congee beinge a french word is in englishe, leave or license, so as all Men resorted thither to have leave of the provoste to lade and unlade, &c. and after, there duties paid, the provost gave them leave to sayle to ye city of Norwich or to other places.—(NOTE by the Author.)



the said fower Kinges, vidz. *Henry* the Firste, *Steven*, *Henry* the Second, and *Richard* the Firste, beinge aboute the space of a hundredth yeres, even untill the tyme of Kinge John, who consideringe the place and scituation to be verye meete to be buylded and resorted unto by manye other nations aswell as by the people of this lande, and jntendinge to provide for the good governmente and rule of the same, did determine to create that place and scituacion into a Free Borroughe, the which had ben governed by the Kinge's Provoste, in the tyme of the said fower laste Kinges. ~~The~~ whiche people were called at that tyme by the name of the Menne of Yermouthe, and yt seemethe at that tyme beganne to growe in greate strengthe and estimacion; for it appeareth by the Records in the Tower, that in those daies there was some controversie betwene the men of the Synque Portes of the one parte, and the men of Yermouth on the other parte, in so much as the men of Yermouthe prevayled in the sea greatlie agenste the men of the Synque Portes, and did burne and take and spoyle diverse of there shippes; for whiche the Sinque Portes compleyned to King Edward Second, and the King and his Counsell did set a fine of a thousande poundes for that offence, uppon the men of Yermouth; and afterwarde it appeareth, that in the tenth yere of the said Kinge's Reygne, the said Kinge did pardon under his greate Seale, the said fine of a thousand poundes unto the said Men of Yermouthe. ~~Then~~ yt appeareth that Kinge John, in the nyneth yere of his reigne, whiche was A° dmi. 1209, for diverse good causes and consideracions dyd make and create the said seate and place so buylded and inhabited by the name of the Burgh of Jernemouthe, and called the men thereof, by

the name of his Burgesses. ~~To whom~~ the said Kinge graunted the same Burghe, withe diverse and sondrye liberties and previledges to hold of the said Kinge in fee farme for ever, yelding for the same to the said Kinge, and to his heires and successors, into the Exchequer, Fyfty and Five Pounds of monye yerely, at the feast of Sainte Michael for ever, as by the Charter thereof made and graunted by the said Kinge John more at lardge appeareth.

Afterwards, A° dmi. 1257, ~~Henr~~ the Thirde, in the fourtye yere of his reigne, did graunt unto the said Burgesses of Yermouthe, diverse especyal liberties and previledges by his two several chres, under the greate seale of England, as by the same appeareth.

And afterwards, a° 1262, in the xlv. yere of his reigne, the said Kinge ~~Henr~~ 3 by his Charter graunted leave and license unto the said Burgesses of Yermouthe, to enclose the same Burghe with a Walle and with a Diche, and for havenge a Prison or Goale within the said Burroughe, as by the same dothe appeare.

Also a° dmi. 1286, ~~Edward~~ the Firste, in the thirtene yere of his Reigne, by his lres. Patents graunted to the said Burgesses of Yermouthe, div'se liberties and previledges, as by the same charter appeareth. And in the yere of our Saviour Jesus, 1287, there was a greate rage of the Sea, at the said Towne of Yermouthe, in so much that moste parte of that Town was wellnere drowned upp, and the heighte of the Sea-water was at that tyme in the Church of Saint Nicolas the fulle measure of ~~foote~~ foot by the rewle. Also the foresaid King Edwarde the First, a° 1299, in the xxvj<sup>th</sup> yere of his Reigne, did graunte unto the said Burgesses diverse liberties and prevyldges as by his lres. patentees

appeareth. Also a° 1307 the said Kinge ~~Edward~~ the firste, in the xxxiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of his Reigne, did graunte unto the said Burgesses of Yermouthe Diverse other prevelidges, as by his lres. patentés more at lardge yt doth appeare.

~~Moreover~~ the said Kinge Edwarde the Firste did, in the tyme of his Reigne, sett down sondrye edictes under his greate Seale, towchinge manye controversies and questions about the governement of the free-fayer at Yermouthe, arisinge betwene the men of the Sinque Portes and the People of Yermouthe, as in the v<sup>th</sup> and xxxiiij yeres of his Reigne yt doth appeare.

In this Kinge's tyme, about the yere of our Lorde God 1308, there were greate Broyles and Sturres, and manye dissentions betwene the men of Gorleston and Southtowne, and the People of this Towne of Yermouthe, called by the name of the Burgesses of Greate Yermouthe, about a Ch're, the which Kinge Edwarde the Firste graunted to the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, towchinge gooddes and merchandyzes brought into the Haven of Yermouthe to be bought and sold at the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, and not elles where; w<sup>ch</sup> being pacified by the wise good government of the Men of Greate Yermouthe, they were comended and the adverse parties greatlie rebuked and punyshed.

~~Moreover Kinge Edwarde the 2~~ graunted unto the sayde Towne of Greate Yermouthe, sondrye liberties and prevelidges. And also by his Lres. Patentés, dated xiiij of Maye, in the syxth yere of his reygne, did constitute two Lord Admiralles for the naveyes of this Realme of England, the one called the Lord Admirall of the northerne naveye, which streched from the Temes' mouthe to the northe ptes. of this Land, and the other called the Lord

Admirall of the western naveye, which stretched from the Temes' mouthe to the westward. And of this northerne naveye, John Perebrowne, one of the Burgesses of Greate Yermouth, was constituted Lord Admirall, whoe occupied that office sixe yeres together after his first election. In the which tyme one S<sup>r</sup> Roberte Laburnus, Knighte, was also Lord Admirall of the western naveye.

Then after the end of these sixe years, the said John Perebrowne conteynewed his place and office thirtene yeres more, even unto the end of the saide Kinge Edwarde the Seconde's Reigne. During which tyme one Robert Battalus one of the Barons of the Sinque Ports, was appointed to the western naveye.

Afterwards also yt appeyareth by like Recordes in the Tower, That Kinge Edwarde the Thirde, in the firste yere of his Reigne, did appoynte and contynewe the said John Perebrowne in his former place and office. And at that tyme the said Kinge did appoynte and constitute one Guaresius de Valonois for the western naveye of England, as by the same Recordes more at lardge it appeareth.

Edwarde the Thirde by his Letters Patentes graunted unto his Burgesses of Greate Yermouth, diverse liberties and prevyldges callinge the Haven and water by the name of his Porte of Greate Yermouth; and also did unite and joine unto the said Burghes and Towne for ever, a certen place in the highe Sea, called Kirlee roade. To hold the same of the Kinge in fee farme for ever, paienge fyve poundes therefore yerelie into the exchequer. The which place, called Kirlee roade at that tyme, was neere unto the mowthe of the Haven of Greate Yermouth, as by his several Chres and Letters Patentes more at lardge appeareth.

Also, in this King's tyme were agene revived certain contentious towching the liberties of this Towne, by the men of Gorleston and litell Yermouthe. And this was don by the means of the Earle of Richmond, a greate nobleman of this Realme, whome the Kinge greatlie favored; and this earle of Richmonde had by graunte from the Kinge, the whole hundred of Lothingland, and by reason thereof, he claymed the arrivenge of Shippes on that side, and the buyenge and selling by his Tenants withe them, and he challenged half the haven, beinge an arme of the sea, to belonge to him. Upon which sute moved before the said Kinge, the Earle desired the Kinge to revoke all chartres and grauntes made by his Progenitors to the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, in p'iudice of him and his Tenants aforesaide. Wherunto the Towne of Greate Yermouthe appeared and pleaded diverse Chres. verdicts, and judgments, in the tymes of King Edward the Firste, and Kinge Edward the Seconde, and of King Henrye the Thirde, provenge therbye that all the wholle Haven did apperteyne to the Towne of Greate Yermouth onelye, and to none other; and provenge also there lawfull holdinge of all there other liberties impugned by the said Earle and his Tenantes. Notwithstanding by the means of the saide Earle thes Busines were kept in sute before the Kinge and his Counsell from daye to daye, a longe season at diverse places, first at Westm' next to Leceister, upon a new daye, and from thence to Geffrye Scrope and his fellowes, beinge the King's Justices, to thend that they suld end yt, or elles to remitte the proces of all the said busines before the Kinge and his Counsaile unto his Parliament. And afterward the Kinge sent that proces and another writte to the

said Geoffry Scrope and his fellowes, from Northampton, commanding them to heare the matters and to geve judgment therein, but they adjorned it over to Yorke, and when yt was at York, the said Justices hearde bothe parties by there Counsellers, but did not ende the cause. ~~Therefore~~ the King sente unto his said Justices another writte, comaunding them to send all the process of the said busyness unto Yorke, before the said Kinge and his Counsell, at a certen daye; at which daye the pties and matters beinge hearde at Yorke, could not there be ended, but were agene from thence adjorned to Salisbury before the Kinge, in his highe Courte of Parliamente. Nevertheles the same were not then determined, but adjorned over unto the next Parliamente, which was at West' y<sup>e</sup> 4 yere of this Kinge. Yet the cause was not then determined, but the Kinge, at the requeste of the said Earle of Richmond, did assigne the Lord Chancellor of Englund by his comission to come to Norwiche, and there to enquier by the othes of two Juries, all Knightes, Esquiers, and Gent<sup>n</sup>, of the truthe concernenge the p'misses. Uppon whose reterne, the Juries fyndenge all things with the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, and agenste the said Earle and his said Tenants, the Kinge did thereuppon graunt unto the said Towne of Greate Yermouthe, all there liberties and previledges which theye claymed, forbiddenge there molestacion by the men of Litell Yermouthe and Gorleston. And this sute contynewed by the space of five yeres together, before yt was determined and ended, which was in the sixte yere of Kinge Edwarde the Thirde.

Also yt appeareth, that aboute this tyme, vidz. a<sup>o</sup> dmi. 1330, the newe place buylded and intended to enlarge the Church of

Saint Nicholas in this Towne, at the weste ende of the said Church, was begonne to be buylded but never fynished, as yet yt appeareth to be seene.

~~Moreover~~ in the tenthe yere of this Kinge Edwarde the Thirde, a° 1336, yt appeareth that there was a greate controversye betwene the people of this Towne of Greate Yermouthe and the Barons of the Sinque Portes. Wheruppon the saide Kinge tooke uppon him to sette a peace and amitye betwene these parties, for ever to contynewe. And because this his order might be the better observed, the said Kinge caused the same to be published and proclaymed in all the Porte Townes of Englande, Fraunce, Gascoyne, and Guyen, to thend he might be enformed of those whiche shuld firste breake his order or disobeye his royall comaundment, that they mighte have punishmente for there offence.

~~Also~~ the fourtene yere of this Kinge, vidz. a° 1340, the Kinge meetinge withe the Frenche Kinge's Navye aboute Sluce on the coaste of Flanders with the Naveye of Englande, John Perebrowne, Admirall of the northe Navye, did there greate service, and the shippes of this Towne of Greate Yermouthe were comended for there service, above all the English navye at that time.

~~Moreover~~ it apperethe by recorde, that about the yere 1346, which was aboute the xx yere of Kinge Edward the Thirde, the Haven of the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, runinge out into the Sea near Kirklee Roade, by reason of the lengthe thereof, beganne to be in some greate decaye, and to be very discomodious for the Towne and for the Townesmen, and for all others that repayred thither with anye Shippinge or Marchandize. And albeit they might by the King's graunte take the like custumes and

dutyes in Kirklee Roade, as theye did take and receyve at the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, yet the Towne did accompte it a greater benefytte and more comodious to have there haven made better and nerer home. ~~Therefore~~ the Kinge graunted leave and license to the said Towne to make a new haven by trenchinge uppon the Sande into the Sea, in what place soever theye shuld thinke good; grauntinge also unto the said Towne libertye to take of everye laste of Herringes twelfe pence, for the space of five yeres, towards the charges thereof.

Furthermore the said Kinge ~~Edward~~ 3, by his Letters Patente, and also by Acte of Parliament, in the xxxj yere of his Reygne, did graunte and confirme diverse and sondry liberties towchinge the free faire yerelie holden at the Towne of Greate Yermouthe.

It also appereth that in a<sup>o</sup> 1348, there dyed of a greate plague within the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, the number of ~~seven~~ thousand persons and more.

King Richard 2 graunted sondry things towchinge the free fayer, and also about Kirklee Roade, as by his charter made unto the Towne of Greate Yarmouthe in the Tenth yere of his Reigne, more at large appeareth.

Also King Richard the second, hearinge good reporte of the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, to which he had graunted some liberties, came in his proper person unto the said Towne, and did vewe the same, and likenge verye well thereof, did graunte them such previledges as before that tyme had ben by himself revoked, uppon the slanderous report of the men of Leistofte, and of the Countye of Suff. The yere wherein he was at Yermouthe was in a<sup>o</sup> 1382.\*

\* Ao 10, R. 2. Moreover it appereth that Kinge Richard the seconde in the Tenth yere of his reigne, haveinge warres wth Fraunce, Spayne, flanders, and



In the year of our Saviour 1385, the Market-Place of the saide Towne of Greate Yermouthe was paved, and a newe Crosse and Pillorye sette upp therein, and the Crosse covered with leade.

~~Moreover~~ yt seemeth that in the year 1392 the Haven of Yermouthe was fallen agene into greate ruine and decaye, which had been cutte and trenched newe into the Sea aboute thirtie yeres before, and therefore the Townesmen were sutors unto Kinge Richarde the Seconde, to have leave to digge and cutte a newe Haven, and yt seemeth this was a matter taken in hand by good advise and counsell of some skilfulle p̄sonnes, for the verye place was not only sette downe where it shuld be cutte, but the verye lengthe and breadthe also were prefixed. ~~For~~ the said Kinge graunted his License unto the said Towne, to make and cutte a newe Haven within the liberties of the same Town, in a certen place called the Horse Ferrye, and that the same shuld conteyne one hundrethe perches in lengthe, and ten perches in bredthe, which seemethe by the mencion of the old trenche yet remaineng, was performed accordingle. And it is to be supposed that the said Kinge Richard the Second gave some benevolence to so good a peece of worke, at the begennenge thereof, but there is no manifeste recorde thereof. But thus it is to be gathered—~~Kinge Henrie~~ 4, whoe did succede Kinge Richarde the Seconde, the tenth yere of

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Brittayne, did take greate care of his frontier Townes and Stronge holdes uppon the seacoastes, emongeste the wch this towne of Greate Yermouthe was then accompted a place of greate importance to the Kinge and the wholle realme. And therefore the Kinge, by his comission under the greate seale of Englande, did appoynt the Lord Morley, and diverse other Knyghtes and gent. and the Shirreffs of the counties of Norff. and Suff. together with the balifes of Great Yermouthe, to take care of the fortiseng of that towne, and for defense thereof wth armor, munytion, and means, occasion shuld requier, as by the said Comission apperethe.—NOTE by the Author.

his reigne, did geve and graunte to the Men of Yermouthe <sup>vo<sup>lb</sup></sup>, to be taken every yere ; one hundreth pounds out of the Customes and subsidies of the Porte of Yermouthe, for and towardes the Buyldinge of the Haven of Yermouthe. Whiche mnst needes appeare to be employed uppon the Haven begon in Kinge Richarde the Seconde his tyme, or elles for makinge of some other new Haven, but rather for finishenge the old Haven, for that in that graunte there is no mencion made of enye newe Haven to be trenched or cutte.

~~Henry~~ 4 also, the thirde yere of his reygne, did appointe the L. Chancellor of Englande, and diverse others of his Counsaile, to sette downe in order and finall pacificacion, of all maner of contencions and quarrelles betwene the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, of the one parte, and the Towne of Leistofte on the other parte, of longe tyme before dependinge for and concernenge diverse liberties and previledges challenged by the Towne of Yermouthe, by force of there Charters, as by the same more at largde appeareth.

~~Also~~ there appeareth another concorde towchinge that matter, made in the seconde yere of the said Kinge.\*

~~Henry~~ the 5, Kinge of Englande, the second yere of his Reigne, did graunte and confirme unto the Burgesses of Greate Yermouthe,

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\* Inter. patentes. a<sup>o</sup> 5<sup>o</sup> H. 4, 20 die Februarij.—~~Memorandum~~ yt appeareth in the Recordes of the Tower, that Kinge Henrye the fourthe, in the fifthe yere of his reigne, in regarde that the towne of Yermouthe was a frontier towne seated uppon the sea coste, likelie to be invaded by the enemye, to the damage of the King and the countries adioynenge to the same, his maiestie therefore by concent of the wholle parliament, did grante that the Shippenge of wolles, hides, and skinnes wch then were used to be at Lyn and Ipswiche, together with the packinge and weighenge of wolles from thensforth shuld be at the said Towne of Great Yermouth, and not elles where, wthin the counties of Norff. and Suff. durenge ye Kinge's pleasure.—*NOTE by the Author.*

and to there successors, diverse and sondrye previledges and libertyes, as by the Charter thereof more at lardge appeareth.

**Th**e said Kinge also, a° 1417, in the v<sup>th</sup> yere of his reigne, gave leave and license to the Burgesses of Greate Yermouthe, to buyld and make a bridge over the Haven of the said Towne, as by his Lres. Patentis thereof to them made also appeareth.

**I**t appereth by Recordes that the Friers Preachers were founded in this Towne by Kinge Henrye ye Thirde; the Friers Minorites by Kinge Edward the Second; and the Friers Carmelities by Kinge Edward the Thirde.

**Henry** 6, Kinge of Englande, did confirme unto the Burgesses of Greate Yermouthe, all the liberties and previledges heretofore graunted unto them by enye of his noble p<sup>r</sup>genitors, as by his L<sup>r</sup>es. of confyrmacion thereof appeareth.

**Edward** the 4, Kinge of Englande, was verye gracious unto this Towne, in so much as where the Burgesses thereof did paye to y<sup>e</sup> Kinge into th'Exchequer fiftye and five poundes for the fee farme of this Borroughe, and five poundes for y<sup>e</sup> farme of Kirklee roade, being In all together lx<sup>lb</sup>, **Th**e said Kinge by his letters patente did release unto the Burgesses of the said Towne and borrowghe fyttie markes, parcell of the said lx<sup>lb</sup> yerelie for fourtie yeres.

**Henry** the 7, Kinge of England, favored the said Towne verye greatelie, In so much as he by his Letters Patente after the ende of the fourtye yeres wherein Kinge Edward the fourthe released the Towne of fiftye markes by yere p<sup>r</sup>cell of the fee farme of thre score poundes.

**Th**e said Kinge also remitted the sume of fyftye markes

by yere, p̄cell of the fee-farme of thre-skore Pounds, for twentye and five yerres more, as therebye it appeareth.

~~Moreover~~ the said Kinge, in the ninethe yere of his Reygne, did graunt unto the Balifes and Burgesses of this Towne of Greate Yermouthe, a lardge Charter for electinge Justices of the Peace and Quorum, and Coroners, within the Burghe, and for holdinge Sessions of the Peace and Goale Delyverye for ever.

Also, whereas the said Burroughe and Towne of Greate Yermouthe was alwaies bounde to paye unto the Kinges of this Lande Two hundreth Poundes for everye wholle fyftene and tenthe, as often as anye suche wholle xv and x<sup>th</sup> were graunted by Acte of Parliament for the wholle Realme. The said Kinge in regarde of some decaye That the Towne was follen into, and the greate charges that the same Towne did beare, did release and pardon the said Towne and Townesmen of all the said fyftenes and tenthes dewe in the tyme of his Reigne.

The xxiiij yere of this Kinge's Reigne the cyte of Norwiche was set on fyre, and a greate pte thereof was brente.

Also the xxiiiij yere of his Reigne, the White Friars in the Towne of Yermouthe, was burnt with fier.

Henry the Eighth, King of this Realme, bearinge no lesse of favor and affection towardes the said Towne and Burghe of Greate Yermouthe then his moste noble father did, beinge desierous that the same Towne might growe and prosper, as a matter of greate importance to the Realme, and by his Letters patentes graunte a Release and allowance unto his Balifes and Burgesses of the said Towne of fyfty marks by yere, for the terme of thirtye yerres, p̄cell of the fee farme of the said Towne, of

thre-skore poundes. And assigned the begenenge thereof at the ende of the said xxv yeres, graunted in like sorte to the said Towne by the said Kinge Henrye the Seventhe his late father.

~~Moreover~~ the said Kinge Henry 8, did release and Pardon the inhabitantes of the said Borroughe and Towne of Greate Yermouthe of all maner of fyftenes and tenthes dewe for the said Towne at all tymes, whensoever anye suche fyftenes and tenthes were graunted by Acte of Parliament throughe the wholle Realme in the Tyme of his Reigne.

In the Seventh yere of this King's Reygne, vidz<sup>t</sup> a<sup>o</sup> 1514, came to this Towne of Yermouthe, the Frenche Quene, and Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolke, her husbande, and were there receyved and enterteyned by the space of thre daies, whoe tooke greate good likinge of this Towne, and of the scituation of the same, promisenge that they would procure the Kinge's Maiestie himself to come to see yt.

About the twentye yere of the reigne of Kinge Henry 8, the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, seinge the greate decaye of there haven, did cutte a newe trenche thereof into the Sea, by the advise of an expert man, named the master of the Colledge of Mettingham, by Bongaye to the Townes greate costes and charges, whiche in fewe yeres after beganne agene to decaye, by reason they could not keepe the same from the Southerlye Course whiche it alwayes dothe desire to have.

About this tyme the Church and Queere of the Blackfriars in this Towne of Yermouthe was burnte with fiere.

About the xxviij yere of this Kinge there was an Insurrection aboute Walshingham in Norff. and two of the Rebelles were hanged here at Yermouthe, and drawen and quartered.

In the yere of our Lord Jesus Christe his Incarnacion 1545, in xxxvj yere of this Kinge, Warres beinge betwene England and Fraunce, there were in Yermouthe Roade two Shippes laden with wheate to goe for Bolleyne for the Kinge's Ma<sup>ties</sup> provision; and uppon Saint Andrewes Daye there came two Frenche Shippes of Warre throughe the Roade and bourded the said twoe Englishe Shippes and cutte there cables, and were carryenge them awaye, whereof when tidenge was broughte to Mr. Balifes in the Churche All the wholle Townesmen went out and got there weapons and manned two other Shippes, and rescowed the said King's provision and tooke sixe Frenchmen in the prises, and brought them to Yermouthe; and the two Frenche Shippes did verye hardlie escape the takinge, but yet got awaye in the nyght tyme.

~~Moreover~~ in the said xxxvj yere of the said Kinge, by the Kinge's Comandnt and oversyghte of the Duke of Norfolk, the walles of the Towne of Yermouthe were rampared upp to the Toppe, for the better suretye and defense of the said Towne agenste th' Enemye that might assalte yt.

Also this yere the Counsell house of the said Towne, called the Guylde Halle, was newe repayred and covered with Leade, at the costes and charges of the Towne, and had the Rowfe of the Colledge of Mettingham framed fytte for yt.

In the yere 1546 the Duke of Norff. did make a finall end betwene Sir William Paston, Knyght, Lord of Caster, and the Towne of Yermouthe, towchinge the comon and liberties claymed by both Partes, and put the same into wrightenge.

Also this yere came a Comandment from the Kinge to the Balifes of this Towne, for puttinge down all houses called the

Strewes and Brothell Houses within the liberties of the said Towne, which commandment was psentlie exequeted accordinglie.

In the xxx vij<sup>th</sup> yere of Kinge Henry the Eighth, the Duke of Norff. p̄ceyveng the decaye the Haven of Yermouthe wold tende to the subversion of so good and servicable a Towne, did take pitye thereuppon, and promised to infourme the Kinge's Maiestie thereof, and to move him to be gracious unto the Towne in this behalf. Whereuppon, at his owne costes and charges, he sent for one Mr. Tompson, Mr of the *Meason Dieu* of Dovor, beinge reported to be a skillfulle man, to come and appointe the place to cut a new Haven, to be for the most profite and benefitte for the Towne; and afterwarde the said Duke came to Yermouthe and brought with him the said Mr. Tompson, takinge his advise and counsell, whoe appointed out the place and made an estimacion of the charges that it wold coste. But shortlie after the said Duke was committed to the Tower, and so he could not pfourme his promise, neyther could the Towne as then so presentlie take uppon them the said peece of worke, wantinge moneye and help to goe throughe therwithe as was expedient. Notwithstandinge the Towne used all the beste good meanes that they coule to be furnished of moneye redye when they suld use it, which was aboute two yeres followenge. For then they tooke the sayde Busynes and worke in hande, as hereafter more at lardge shall appeare: towardes which charge ye Towne sold awaye manye belles out of the steeple and much churche gooddes, and also borrowed mucche moneye.

~~Edward~~ the 6, Kinge of this Lande, beariuge no lesse favour unto this Corporacion then his father and Graundfather did before him, by his letters of prevye Seale did remitte and pardon unto the

Inhabitants of this Burgh and Towne, all and singular the fiftenes and tenthes that were granted to him by Acte of Parliamente, as often as the same were dewe from this Towne all the tyme of his maiesties Reigne, as by the same appeareth.

~~The~~ ~~Secunde~~ yere of this Kinge Reygne, the Towne sente for Mr. Tompson of Dover, whome the Duke of Norfolke had in the 37 of Kinge Henrye the Eighte brought hither, and by his counsell and advise, aboute two furlonges from the Southgate of that Towne, did trenche and cutte a new haven into the Sea, and thereuppon bestowed sixe thousand poundes and more, to litell purpose, by reason that the next yere, after that the trenche was made and that it did ronne out into the Sea, the Towne went aboute to fortifye the same withe Tymber workes and buyldenge.

At ~~whiche~~ tyme begunne y<sup>e</sup> Rebellion of Kette in Norfolke, and the said Kette with his Rebelles made accompte to take this Towne of Yermouth for there holde and strenghte. The whiche the Towne and Townesmen wold not suffer or consent unto, but kepte the Towne for the Kinge's Maiestie, accordinge to there allegiance. And they did not onlye kepe them out, but also drave those Rebelles awaye, and tooke certen greate peces of Ordinance from them, which Ordinance they had gotten at the Towne of Leistofte, and came and broughte it with them to beseege this Towne of Greate Yermouth. And the inhabitants of Yermouth did go fourthe to Gorleston agenste the said Rebelles, and there hurte manye and killed manye, and putte the reste to flighte; ~~Th~~ whiche busynes and trobelles was the verye overthrowe of that newe haven, and the losse of the said



sixe thousande poundes. For besides that there could no tyme be afforded to looke to make those newe workes, nor to preserve the workes thereof beinge made agenste the rage of the Sea. The said Rebelles also, bearinge greate malice and Indignacion unto this towne of Greate Yermouthe, soughte the Revenge thereof by spoylenge the workes of the Haven and of those thinges which the Towne had provided for the buyldinge, and by stoppunge it up with mannour and Stone. The which thinges were the verye cheefeste causes and occasions of this greate losse that did thus happen.

~~The~~ said Kinge Edwarde the sixthe graunted to the Towne of Greate Yermouthe, a Comission under the greate seale of Englande for the takinge upp of cartes, carriages, laborers, and workmen, and all thinge needfulle and necessarye for the buyldenge and makinge the said newe haven, as by the said Comission appeareth; and his ma<sup>ty</sup> farther promised to geve some Relefe for buyldenge th<sup>of</sup>, w<sup>h</sup> was not p<sup>er</sup>formed by reason of his death.

~~Marye~~, ~~Quene~~ of Englande, was also favorable and gracious unto this corporacion. In the begennenge of whose Reigne, when as that the Duke of Northumberland had proclaymed Jane to be Quene of Englande, ~~The~~ Towne of Greate Yarmouthe did holde and kepe the Towne for Quene Marye, whoe lyenge then at Framingham Castell in Suffolke, the Towne sent one of there Balifes to her ma<sup>ty</sup> to signifye the Townes faythfullnes and allegiance, whiche the said Quene tooke in verye good parte, gevenge him her greate thankes and comendacion, promisenge to requite this the Towne's dutifulle kyndnes.

~~And~~ afterwards, in the 2 and 3 yere of Her Maties Reigne, and of Kinge Phillipe, they did remitte unto the Balife and Burgesses

of this Towne fyfthe markes yerelie, for the terme of fourtie yeres, p<sup>r</sup>cell of thre score poundes of the fee farme of the same Towne; the said graunte of Remission to begenue at the ende of the thyrtye yeres, whiche were in lyke maner graunted by Kinge Henrye the eight, her maiesties father, as by the Letters Patente therof it dothe appeare.

In the thirde and fourthe yeres of King Philippe and Quene Marye, the Righte honorable the Erl of ~~Sussex~~, by the comandment of the Kinge and Quene, did come to Yermouthe, and there did keepe an honorable house almost one yere, and broughte with him the Kinge and Quene's Comission, directed to him and to the Balifes of this Towne, for the examinacion and triall of diverse matters, and speciallye for Treasons comitted, as by the said Comission remainenge amongeste diverse Recordes of the said Towne appeareth; and also for fortificacion of the saide Towne.

This yere also a peece of the Towne walle, from the Blackfrier's Lane towardes the next Tower estwarde, beinge fallen downe, was buylded uppe at the costes and charges of the Towne.

About this Tyme Corne was verye deare—that is, wheate at fower markes the Quarter, and Rye at xxx ij<sup>s</sup> the Quarter. Nevertheless at the Harveste followenge wheate came downe and was solde for vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> the Quarter, and Rye for iiij<sup>s</sup> the quarter.

About the ende of the Reigne of the said Quene Marye, a<sup>o</sup> 1558, there was a great Plague and mortalitye in this Towne. And so the like was in a<sup>o</sup> D<sup>n</sup>i 1534, before that. And also another Plage followed in anno D<sup>n</sup>i 1578.

Moreover in this Quene's tyme the Haven of this Towne was in greate decaye, and the Townesmen were sutors to the Quene for

some Reliefe towards the makinge of a newe Haven, but did not prevayle, by reason of the Deathe of the said Quene.

~~Peter the~~ the said Quene ~~Marye~~ by her gracious Letters of prevy Seale did remitte and pardon unto the inhabitants of Yermouthe alwayes, the some of Two hundredth poundes, dewe for one wholle fiftene and tenthe out of that Towne to her Maiestie by Acte of Parliament, whensoever and as often as anye suche fiftene and tenthe was graunted throughe out the Realme, as by the same Letters of prevy Seale remaininge of Recorde in th' Exchequere more manifestlie appeareth.

~~Elizabeth~~ Elizabeth, Quene of Englande, hath bene moste gracious and favorable unto this Burroughe and Towne of Greate Yarmouth, beinge verye desierous of the prosperous estate thereof as a matter of greate importance to her ma<sup>tie</sup> and to the Realme; in whose daies the same towne hath better prospered and flourished then in longe time before. And this came to passe by reason of her ma<sup>ties</sup> greate favour and bounteous liberalties from tyme to tyme bestowed uppon that Towne for diverse respectes; but especiall ye for newe makinge, buyldenge, and preservinge of the Haven of the said Towne; the goodness whereof dothe alwaies cause the prosperitie of that Town, and the badnes thereof bringeth a ruine and decaye to the same Towne; all which her ma<sup>ties</sup> graunts shall hereafter appeare.

The said Quene Elizabeth, by Letters Patentes under her greate Seale, the firste yere of her Reygne, did not only econfirme unto the said Towne all maner of liberties, privileges, and Jurisdictions, which in tymes paste had ben geven and graunted unto that Towne by her maiesties most Noble Progenitours, But also did graunte

unto the said Towne a lardge newe Charter, towchinge th' Admiraltye and Admirall Jurisdiction of the same Towne, and of all the Inhabitants thereof. And also towchinge the Clerke of the Market and deodand goodes, and towchinge diverse other matters and previledges not before that tyme graunted by her noble progenitors, as by the said Charter appeareth.

Also the said Quene Elizabeth beinge enformed howe the Haven of that Towne had contynewed longe in decaye, to the greate Impoverishenge of this Towne, and understandinge the industrie of the Inhabitants thereof to have taken upon them to make a new haven in the tyme of her late dere Brother, Kinge Edwarde the sixthe, and that they bestowed great somes of monye thereupon, which tooke no effecte, chieflie by reason of the Rebellion of Kette in Norff. whiche presentlie the yere after that haven was cutte did ensewe. And understandinge also that the Townsmen were long sutors, as well in the tyme of her maties said brother as also in the tyme of Quene Marye, her maties Sister, for some Releefe, and were in greate hope to have obtained yf that her said Brother and Sister had lived, beinge bothe taken to goddes mercye when as they expected an end of there sute and petitions, and the said Quene Elizabeth beinge credable enformed that a good haven was the cheef matter of importance for the prosperitie of the said Towne, was verye willenge to helpe forward so good a worke. Wherefore the Townsmen were counsayled by there honorable and worship<sup>ful</sup> frendes, to streyne themselves to begonne to make a new haven, and beinge begonne they wold be means to her maties to helpe us with some ayde and releefe to fynishe yt to good perfection. Wherupon the Towne, in the firste and seconde

yeres of her ma<sup>ties</sup> Reigne, did stoppe up the old course of there haven, and did cutte and digge out a new trenche over the Denne into the Sea, right over agenst the p<sup>er</sup>sonage of Gorleston, which contynewed of reasonable goodnes for fower or five yeres followenge; But the Towne p<sup>er</sup>ceyvenge that yt lusted stille into the old course to runne out Southerlie, theye did goe aboute to prevente yt by sendinge for a skilfulle workman into the partes beyond the Seas, whose advise was to make two greate mayne Peeres to enforce the Tyde and Currante into one certen course. ~~Wherupon~~ the Towne were humble sutors to her Ma<sup>ties</sup>, for some releefe towards the same, and by the meanes of the Townes honourable Frenches, yt pleased her Maiestie to graunte unto the said Corporacion and there deputies in a<sup>o</sup> 1567, one speciall license for transportacion of eightene thousand quarters of wheate, barlie, and malte, into the partes beyond the Seas, towards the finishenge of the workes aboute the said Haven. The which license the Towne solde for the some of xiiij c vij<sup>l</sup>, and bestowed the same and a greate deale more out of there own purses in verye litell tyme.

~~Afterward~~ the workes groweing to a greate charge, which the inh<sup>ab</sup>itants could not proceede in without some further releefe and helpe, the Towne were agene sutors to her Maiestie for some further benevolence, and by the meanes of there honorable good frenches and her ma<sup>ties</sup> L<sup>tes</sup> in the Townes behalf, directed to the Bisshop of Norwiche, and to the Justices of Peace of the Counties of Norff. and Suff. the Towne receyved a benevolence from them, as hereafter followeth, that ys to say, of the benevolence of the Clergie of this dioces xl<sup>l</sup>. ~~The~~ Citie of Norwiche ~~xxi~~ <sup>xxi</sup> ~~vi~~ <sup>vi</sup>

The County of Norff. *cccviij<sup>lbs</sup>* The County of Suff. *lxx<sup>lbs</sup>*: amountinge in all aboute the some of *vc<sup>lbs</sup>*, whiche monye the said Towne also bestowed uppon there said haven, and a greate deale more out of there owne purses, in shorte tyme, as by accomptes thereof are radye to be shewed.

Then the said Towne, seeinge how needfulle it was not to leave those workes, but stille to proceede, were agene sutors to her matie to be holpen. And yt pleased her highnes, a<sup>o</sup> 1576, in the eightene yere of her Reigne, to graunte unto the said Towne a second license for the transportacion of tenne thousand quarters of barlie and malte, whiche License the Towne solde and made thereof in monye, *dvij<sup>c</sup> iij<sup>lbs</sup>*, and bestowed the same and a greate deale more of there owne purses in a very shorte season, as by the accomptes thereof appeareth.

And Besides this License, her Maiestie procured the citie of London about this tyme, to lende unto the said Towne towards the said good workes, a thousande poundes in redye monye, and caused them to take it agene in five yeres next after, that was by two hundreth poundes a yere; which thousand poundes also the Towne bestowed uppon the said Haven, with a greate deale more out of there owne purses in shorte tyme, as by the accompte thereof appeareth.

Then the Towne seeinge the workes of Tymber and Stone did greate good, and that they muste of necessitye be proceeded in, and not be lefte off, beinge not of habilitie of themselves to goe forwarde therwith, did agene intende by the comforte of there honorable good frendes to make humble petition to her matie for some further ayde. And by these honorable means,

in the xxi yere of her gracious Reigne, her ma<sup>tie</sup> bestowed a thirde License uppon the Towne for this purpose for transportation of thirty thousand quarters of wheate, barlie, and malte, which the said Towne did selle for two thousand seven hundred and twenty poundes fyve shillinges and eight pence.

After this the towne yet seeinge howe comodious those workes were, and how expedient it was still to proceede with there said workes begonne aboute the said Haven, and that theye of themselves were not hable to doe it, they acquaynted agene there honorable frendes therewith, whoe advised the Towne to be agene sutors to her ma<sup>tie</sup>, whome theye hoped the Towne sould fynde stille gracious. And thereuppon by these honor<sup>e</sup> means, the Towne made a peticion, and in the xxvj<sup>th</sup> yere of her reigne, vidz. 1584, and obtained a fourthe license for transportation of fourtye thousand quarters wheate, barlie, and malte, which was sold in divers yeres after, in se'vell p'cells, for two thousand one hundred and twelve pounds and five shillings, as appeares in the Auditt booke up the Chamberleyne accounts.

~~Nowe~~ the Towne stille daylie and howerlie contynewenge there said workes to there greate importable charges, whiche of themselves theye were in no wise hable to endewer; and haveinge bestowed many thousand poundes of there owne gooddes, over and besides her mat<sup>ies</sup> greate bountye and liberalitye, and being desierous if they could to bringe those workes to some good perfection, and to make them stronge agenste the rage of the Sea, haveinge ben the spacee of ix or ten yeres aboute those worke synce her maisties laste gracious benevolence, and nowe wantenge yet wherewith to goe further forwarde, They did, by th'advice and counsell of there honorable

good frendes, intend to make sute to her ma<sup>tye</sup> for some further releefe for there said Toune and haven. And yt pleased her ma<sup>tye</sup> by there honors means uppon the humble petition of the said Towne. The whiche petition more at lardge doth appeare hereafter in this Booke, **So** graunte unto the said Towne three severall gracious gyftes followenge, That is to saye—

**Fyrste**, the said Quene **Elizabeth** graunted by her letters of Prevy Seale, towards the finishenge of the worke of the haven, the some of **One thousande poundes**, to be receyved and taken yerelie out of the Custumes and subsidies of that Porte, in the terme of eight yeres, that is evye yere the some of **cxxv £**, untill the said thousande poundes be paide.

**Secondlye**, her ma<sup>tye</sup> graunted by her Letters patentes under her greate Seale, a Release of fyfte markes, p<sup>er</sup>cell of the Townes fee-farme of **lx<sup>s</sup>** yerelie, durenge the terme of fourtye yeres. The said graunte to take begennenge as sone as the fourtie yeres graunted by her sister Quene Marye were fully expired, for that intente and purpose.

**Thirde**, her ma<sup>tye</sup> graunted in the said L<sup>et</sup>res patentes unto the said Towne, a speciall license of mortmayne to purchase or receyve by gyfte to th<sup>e</sup> use of that Towne, Landes, Tenements, tithes, or other possessions, to the valewe of three hundreth poundes by the yere, as by the said Letters of prevy Seale and letters patentes, bearinge date the **xxxij** yere of her reigne, videlicet, a<sup>o</sup> d<sup>ni</sup> 1594, more manifestlie at lardge yt dothe appeare.

**Moreover** the said Quene **Elizabeth** was verye gracious unto the saide Towne of Greate Yermouthe, and in contynuaunce of her mat<sup>ies</sup> pardon and release of all the fiftenes and tenthes dewe



by Acts of Parliamente to her ma<sup>tie</sup> out of the said Towne, In such ample and lardge manner, as her grandfather, her father, her brother and syster had before in there tymes pardoned and released the same. ~~So~~ as the said Quene Elizabeth by her severall L<sup>r</sup>es of prevy Seale alwayes pardoned the same, when the saide fiftenes and tenthes were graunted, as namelie, in the yerres of her Maiesties reigne. ~~The~~ first a<sup>o</sup> 5, a<sup>o</sup> 8, a<sup>o</sup> 13, a<sup>o</sup> 18, a<sup>o</sup> 27, a<sup>o</sup> 31, et a<sup>o</sup> 35, as by the same severall L<sup>r</sup>es. of prevy seale remaynenge of recorde more at lardge in the Courte of Exchequer appeareth, and are to be scene.

Also in the tyme of the reigne of this our gracious soveriegne Ladye Quene Elizabeth, there happened sondrye contencions and questions, as followethe, towching some liberties belongenge to this Towne, whiche from tyme to tyme was greatlie favored by the Quene and the Lordes of her Counsaile. At first, in the fourtene yere of her reigne, a<sup>o</sup> 1572, S<sup>r</sup> Henrye Jernegan, Knyght, Lorde of the hundred of Lothingland did agene renewe the like sute in the behalf of his Lordshippe and his tenants of Gorleston, agenste this Corporacion of Greate Yermouth, aboute the free fayer, & for buyenge, sellenge, and delyverenge of herrings and fishe at Gorleston. And also he claymed the waste grounde lyenge by Southe the Haven, whiche the Towne Cutte out; and he brought a greate sute for thes matters in the Courte of Starre Chamber, where the matters beinge hearde and examined, they were referred to be ordered by S<sup>r</sup> Christopher Heydon and S<sup>r</sup> William Buttes, Knyghtes, who, with the sayde Sir Henrye Jernegan, came to Yermouth, vewenge the places, and seeinge the Townes Anciente Recordes, whiche the said S<sup>r</sup> Henrye alledged he never

knewe of. And so the said Knyghtes made a finall ende of all the said controversies, and certified the same into the said Courte of Starre Chamber, by whose authoritye the same was ratified under the Greate Seale of Englande.

About seven yeres followinge, vidz, a<sup>o</sup> 1578, there was a newe controversye moved agenste the towne of Greate Yermouthe, by a sute made by the men of Gorleston, and some of Gunton, Leyestofte, and some of the Towne of Aldborroughe, whe in all the Coaste Townes of Suffolke joyned, and preferred there petition and compleint before the Lordes of her maiesties prevye Counselle, to have libertie freeilie to selle and delyver herringes and fyshe at the said Towne of Gorleston, whiche they alledged to be within our haven, and for the whiche cause, the men of Greate Yermouthe did moleste them as they alledged, contrarye to all righte and equitye. To the which compleynthe, the Towne of Great Yarmouthe made there answer, and shewed further the Kinge's Charter, made in Edward the thirde's tyme, when as the Earle of Richmond and his tenants of Gorleston made the like Compleinte and sute. Wherupon the Lords of her ma<sup>ties</sup> prevye Counsell sette downe a playne decree, under twelve of there handes, directlie withe the said Towne of Greate Yermouthe, agenste the said men of Gorleston, and agenste all other the said compleynantes, as by the same decree remainenge of Recorde in the said Towne of Greate Yermouthe, moste evidentlie appeareth.

Moreover in the yere of our Saviour 1578, there were some questions and controversies risenge betweene the Barons of the Sinque portes of the one parte, and the towne of Greate Yermouthe on the other parte, towching the Rule and order of the

free-faier at Yermouthe, yerelie there holden and kepte and governed, by either parties jointlie, duringe the space of fourtye dayes, begennenge yerelie on the day of the Feaste of Sainte Michaell the Archangell, & so contynewenge all the said fourtye dayes together, ~~in~~ so much as there were by consente chosen diverse judges of the Land, Lawyers, Counsellors, Barons of the Portes, and Burgesses of Greate Yermouthe, to sette down a finalle agreement and ende for all maner of the said controversies, and authoritye was given from all parties under there common seales for this purpose. ~~Wher~~ ~~uppon~~ there was a meetinge at London, and there all the same questions and controversies were fullye finished and determind, as by the award thereof under the hands and seales of such as were so authorized more manifestlie appearethe.

Not longe after sci. a<sup>o</sup> 1577, there was a compleynt exhibited againste the Towne of Greate Yermouthe by the fresh water Fishermen, before the Lord Keper of the Greate Seale; and a like compleynt by the said Towne agenste Mr. Paston and other freshwater Fishermen, for and concernenge the liberties which the Towne of Yermouthe ever had by the space of tenne myles from said Towne uppon the freshe Rivers, that is to say, to Hardley Crosse, Saint Olave's Bridge, and Weybridge, and concernenge the graunting and appointenge of certen ele settes in those Rivers to certen Fishermen yerelie; ~~All~~ whiche compleyntes and sutes were then ordered and determined by the said L. Keper, and exemplified under the Greate Seale of Englande.

~~Hereafter~~ followethe the trewe Coppye of a petition & Sute made to the Lordes of her mat<sup>ties</sup> moste honorable prevye Counsayle, a<sup>o</sup> D<sup>ni</sup> 1594, uppon the wh. there was obteyned her mat<sup>ties</sup> greate and bounteous liberalities, as ys before in fo. 33 remembered.

*To the Righte Honorable the Lordes and others of her maiesties moste honorable Prevye Counsayle.*

In moste humble maner shewen unto yo<sup>r</sup> honors,\* &c.

The Coppye of a Letter written by the Justices of the Peace in the Countie of Norff: to the Lordes of her mat<sup>ties</sup> Prevye Counsayle, in the furtherance of this sute before made aboute some Releefe for the Towne of Yermouthe and the Haven thereof, A<sup>o</sup> 1593.

Our bounden Dutie remembered: Whereas, Righte Honorable, we were earnestly moved,† &c.

Subscribed your Ladyships most humble

DRUE DRURYE

ARTHUR HEVENNINGHAM

EDWARDE CLERE

JOHN PEYTON

HENRYE WOODHOUSE

WILLIAM HEYDEN

EDWARDE COOKE

NATHANIEL BACON

THOMAS FERMOE

HENRY HOBARTE

\* A copy of this Petition is printed in *Swinden's History of Yarmouth*, p. 446.

† A copy of this Letter is printed in *Swinden's History of Yarmouth*, p. 448.

**The Coppye of the Quenes maiesties prevy Seale, graunted to the Towne of Yermouthe, a° 1594, for receyvenge a Thousand poundes in eight yeres, towards the repareng of the Haven.**

**Elizabeth, by the Grace of God, Quene of England, France, and Irelande, Defendour of the Faithe, &c. to the Treier Barons & Chamberlaynes of our Exchequer, that nowe be and that hereafter for the tyme shall be, Greetinge: Whereas,\* &c.**

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\* A Copy of this Grant is printed in *Swinden's History of Yarmouth*, p. 449.

## Greate Yermouth.

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After is set fourth and declared, howe and in what maner the haven of Yermouth took his begennenge, and in what places the mouthes and yssewes thereof have contynewed there courses. And more-over howe often & in what places the same haven hath ben newe made and trenched into the Sea, at diverse and sundrye tymes. All whiche matters are verye necessarye to be understode, and to be contynewed in Remembrance to the posteritye of that Towne, the which shall succede in ages to come. For y<sup>e</sup> which purpose I have taken some paines to collecte the same out of diverse olde and auncient Recordes, and have put the same into wrightenge, as hereafter followethe.

Firste, when as the scituation of the Borroughe and Towne of Yermouth was nothinge but a verye Sande in the Sea, lienge and beinge in the mouth of that Arme of the Sea called *Jerus* or *Heirus*. Then that arme of the Sea was verye lardge and wide for enteringe in withe Shippes, extendinge in bredthe from the Towne of Caster to the Towne of Gorleston, and was navigable up to the Citye of Norwiche & Bewcleffes, and Bongaye, and also to Acle, to Saint Bennettes Abbeye, to Hornenge and Wroxham, and to manye other places in the Counties of Norffolke and Suffolke. But afterwarde when that Sande in the Sea whereuppon nowe the Towne of Yermouth is buylded, did growe into firme Lande, then

that Arme of the Sea beganne to change and come into narrower courses, as hereafter more largelie appeareth

In the tymes of the Reignes of ~~Henr~~<sup>Henry</sup> the firste, ~~Steph~~<sup>Stephen</sup>, ~~Henr~~<sup>Henry</sup> 2, ~~Rich~~<sup>Richard</sup> 1, & ~~John~~<sup>John</sup>, Kinges of this Realme, when as the Towne of Yermouthe beganne to be buylded and inhabited, the said arme of the Sea had two yssewes or mouthes into the Sea, the one uppon the Northe syde of the towne of Yermouthe, towards the Towne of Caster, and the other comenge alongeste by the Clives of Lowestofte, Gunton, Corton, and Gorleston. And at eyther of the said two mouthes or entries Shippes did passe in and out, sayleng up unto the said Citye of Norwiche, and unto other partes of the Counties of Norff. & Suff.\* Durenge all whiche tyme and aboute the space of one hundreth yeres after, the towne of Yermouthe began to be buylded and longe before, all the Fen groundes and marshe groundes were overflowen with the Sea uppe to the Cytye of Norwiche and other places before specefied.

But after the said hundred yeres were expired, by the providence and great worke of Almightye God, the Northerne yssewe or entrye of that Arme of the Sea by the Towne of Caster, did forsake and leave his course, and in fewe yeres was altogether stopped uppe and became firm lande, adjoinenge yt-self to the firme continent of the hundred of Flegge; ~~So~~ that for the space of ~~one~~ hundreth yeres and more, that is to say, durenge the tyme of the reignes of ~~Henr~~<sup>Henry</sup> 3, ~~Edwar~~<sup>Edward</sup> 1, and ~~Edwar~~<sup>Edward</sup> 2, the Southe entrye or mouthe thereof contynewed his olde course by the Cliffes of the

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\* To prove this to be trew, ankors of Iron, and Keels of Shippes, have been found and digged up at Castor, by Norwich, at Beckelles, and at Bongaye, in the medowes and marsh grounda.—*NOTE by the Author.*

Townes of Gunton, Corton, and Gorleston, and by the said Town of Yermouthe, leaving a certen Sande betweene that Haven & the Sea, from the mouthe thereof upp to the said Towne of Yermouthe. And so the same kept his course from the Towne of Yermouthe, divydenge himself into thre Rivers, the one to Bewklifes and Bongaye, and the other to Norwiche, and the thirde to Hornenge & Wroxham & Saint Bennet's Abbeye, aboute which tyme the marshes and fennes, which alwaies before had been overflowen, did now begenne to be firme Lande and to bear grasse.

And the said Thre Kinges havege greate care to preserve and mainteyne the said Towne of Yermouth then so newlie founded and buylded, did graunte unto the said Towne of Yermouthe, diverse and sondrye greate prevyldges. But especially they graunted the Haven aforesaid whollye unto the Towne and to there Successors forever. And that all shippes and Vesselles comenge and arrivenge within that Haven, withe fyshe, goodes, or other merchandizes whatsoever, the same were shulde be discharged and unladen at the said Towne of Yermouthe, and there make sale of there present gooddes and merchandizes, payenge there also certen custumes and duties for the same, and not elles where, to be discharged and unladen. And thus that haven contynewed in his course from the tyme of Henry 3, till aboute the twenty yere of Edw. 3, beinge aboute one hundreth yeres, in reasonable good case. But from the tenth yere of Kynge Edward the thirde, for x yeres yt beganne to be thought verye longe and tediousse, by reason of much Sande, brought into the same by the rage of the Sea, that caused many shoulde therin, and partlie by reason moste of the marsh grounds became firm land.



The which marshes and fennes could not receive the fluddes in such plentifull maner as they were accustomed. ~~But~~ by thes meanes, the said Haven fallinge into some decaye to the damage and hurt of the said Towne of Yermouthe, the said Kinge ~~Edw.~~ 3, beinge enformed thereof, bearing no lesse favor unto that Towne of Yermouthe then his auncestors had don, and beinge enformed of the length thereof, and that it was thought good for the comoditie of that Towne of Yermouthe to cutte the same haven somewhat shorter, ~~At~~ the said Kinge, in the twentye yere of his reigne, by his L<sup>res</sup> patente did graunte leave and license unto the Towne of Yermouthe to make and cutte a newe haven into the Sea, by a trenche through the sandes, in whatsoever place the said Towne shuld thynke meete & expedient, by force of which graunte the said Towne did make and trenche a new haven into the sea, through the sandes, nere to the Towne of Corton, shortenge of a great part of the length thereof toward the Southe, that is to saye, of the olde course wherein the same did ronne before, ~~The~~ ~~whiche~~ new haven being thus cutte and trenched about ann. d<sup>ni</sup> 1347, did contynewe in verye good state aboute the time of thre and twenty yeres together. And then the said haven did falle into great decaye, especiallie at the mouthe and entrie thereof, that shippes and vesseles could not pass uppe to the Towne of Yermouthe, to the greate damage and detriment of that Towne. ~~The~~ which thinge being informed to Kinge Edward the thirde, having great care to maynteyne the said Towne of Yermouthe, for the releefe and ayde thereof, the said Kinge, by his letters patentes, the 46 yere of his reigne, an<sup>o</sup> 1372, did graunte and unite unto the said Towne of Yermouthe for ever, a certen place in the sea lienge nere the

entrye of the haven aforesaid, to the intende that shippes and vesselles which could not come into the haven, and so upp to Yermouthe with there gooddes and laydinge, myght in the same place of Kirklee road be unladen and laden with there gooddes and merchandizes, payenge unto the Towne of Yermouthe such custumes & duties for the same gooddes and merchandizes as they shuld have paid if they hadd discharged, laden, or unladen the same at the said Towne of Yermouthe. And this said haven contynewed in this decaye by the space of twenty yeres together, and the town of Yermouthe did receyve and take the custumes in Kirklee roade, beinge nothing so profitable and comdyous for that towne as it was when shippes arrived at that towne. **Wherefore** the said towne did make sute to King Richard 2 to take pitie upon there estate, who bearinge no less favor to that towne than his auncestors had don, by his Tres patentes, the 16 yere of his reayne, did give License to the towne to make a new haven within the liberties of that towne, at a place called the horse-ferry, and towards that graunted also that the said town might receyve and take towards the makinge thereof twelve pence of everye laste of Herringes comenge within the liberties of that town durenge the space of five yeres then next followenge. **Wheruppon** the said Towne with verye great costes and charges did cutte and make the said Haven in that place a° 1392. And so that Haven beinge there made and cutte did continewe in reasonable estate 15 or 16 yeres, and then it felle agene into decaye, to the hurte and greate damage of that towne. **Wheruppon** the said town made petition to Kinge Henrye the fourthe, enfourmeng him of the greate loss and decaye that was like to followe unto the said Towne, who, bearing no less favor towards the same that his noble progenitors had

done, in the x<sup>th</sup> yere of his reigne, did geve and graunte unto the said towne, out of the Kinge's custumes thereof, five hundreth poundes in five yeres, to be paid towards the makenge of there haven. Uppon which good encouragement the said towne did cutte and trenche another new haven more southerlie, towards Corton, nere agenste Newton Crosse, a<sup>o</sup> 1408. And this new haven, w<sup>th</sup> greate costes and charges, contynewed in reasonable good estate aboute thre skore yeres together ann. 1468. And aboute that tyme the haven beganne agene to falle into some decaye; ~~Wher~~ <sup>Wher</sup>ruppon the said towne made sute to Kinge Edwarde the fourthe, who bearinge the like favor to that towne that his auncestors had done, of his mere mocion did geve and graunt two thousand markes in certen yeres towards the repayerenge of there haven. And then the said Burgesses, by the advice and counsell of the master of Mettingham Colledge, did trenche and cutte a newe haven more northerlie, from Newton Cros towards Gorleston. ~~Wh~~ <sup>Wh</sup>ich newe haven so then made dyd contynewe in good case durenge the space of fourtie yeares or thereabouts. ~~Wher~~ <sup>Wher</sup>ruppon the town made sute agen to Kinge Henry the seventh, perceivenge there said haven to growe into some decaye, and the said Kinge towards the repayerenge thereof graunted unto the said Towne fiftie markes by yere for xxv yeres, wherewith the said towne repaired, and kept the same haven in reasonable state, but w<sup>th</sup> much more of their owne costes, till aboute the yere of our Lord God 1523. At which time the said haven beinge decayed, the said Kinge ~~Henry~~ <sup>Henry</sup> 8, did graunte unto the said towne fiftene hundred markes, p<sup>c</sup>ll of their fee farme in the thirtie yeres, from the xv yere of his reigne wherewith the said towne did what they could to kepe the said haven in reparation, but could not, for by rages and tempests y<sup>t</sup> forsooke

that course and went agene alongest the clive towards Newton Crosse, and grewe verye shallow; ~~in so~~ much as about xx yerres followenge, the Duke of Norff. greatlie favoureng the said Towne, did procure the master of y<sup>e</sup> meason Dieu of Dover to come to view a place mete to digge a new haven for the moste and best comodytie to the towne, whoe gave a counsell to cutte the same within two furlongs of the South Walles, and to stopp the other course thereof. And in the yere 1549 the said haven was fynished, w<sup>h</sup> costes at least Six thousande poundes, the Towne sellinge there Belles, Coapes, Vestments, Challices, and most of their Church gooddes, and makinge great assessments besides for the finishenge thereof. And yet nevertheles the said haven did not longe continewe in that course, but the same stopped upp agene. And then the said haven followed his olde course agene toardes Newton Crosse, but it was verye shallowe. ~~Wherefore~~ the Towne being encoraged, a<sup>o</sup> 1559, in the firste yere of the reigne of Quene Elizabeth, by the Right Honorable the L. Clinton, then L. Admirall, and after by the Duke of Norfolke and S<sup>r</sup> William Woodhouse, Knyght, Vice Admirall of Englande, with greate costs and charges did trenche and cutte a newe haven into the Sea, opposite to the personage of Gorlestone. Towardes the which workes theye did promise to move the Quene's Maiestie to extend some benevolence. The which afterwarde they performed, and by there meanes, and by the meanes of our honourable High Stewardes from tyme to tyme, for the space of fourteen years or thereaboutes, the said haven w<sup>th</sup> greate workes of timber, brushe wood, iron workes, and stone have been contynewed a good Harborrowe, not without the charge of manye thousand poundes thereuppon bestowed. Towardes the which y<sup>t</sup> pleased the said Quene's maiestie to geve

many greate gifts and benevolences. And so by reason of the goodnes of ther sayde haven, the said Towne, in thes fourtie yeres, have greatlie flourished in the buildenge there houses and maykenge of Shippes, vesselles for the trades of fishenge and merchandize, the which God graunt may contynewe to his pleasure.—*Amen.*

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## Notes.

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### Page 5.—*Mouths of the fludd.*

Sir Henry Spelman, in his *Icenia*, relates the romantic story of Lothbroc, the Royal Dane, who, by a sudden storm, was driven in his boat from the coast of Denmark, across the sea, and entering in at this estuary or "mouths of the fludd," was landed at Reedham. He met with so much favor from Edmund, King of the East Angles, then residing at Caister in East Flegg, as to excite the envy of Bern, the King's Falconer, who privately murdered the noble stranger in a wood; but the crime having been discovered by the fidelity of a dog, who watched the dead body of his master, Bern was put into the same vessel and committed to the mercy of the winds and waves. The boat having been marvellously carried back to the Danish coast, was recognised, and inquiry being made as to the fate of Lothbroc, it was asserted by Bern that he had been put to death by King Edmund. The enraged Danes invaded England with a powerful army, and defeated King Edmund near Thetford, in 870, and having obtained possession of the Royal Person, they gratified their thirst for vengeance by barbarously murdering the King, who had refused to treat with such "cruel and perfidious pagans." The body of this "Royal Saint" and "Holy Martyr," as he was afterwards designated, was found guarded by a wolf, and the corpse having subsequently acquired a reputation for "incorruptibility," was removed to Beodrichesworth, afterwards called St. Edmund's Bury, where it was buried and a magnificent Abbey erected over the Tomb. Jocelin of Brakeland, one of the monks of this abbey, in his "*Chronicle*," now in the *Harleian Collection*, affirms that, on the 20th November, 1198, the tomb was opened, and the uncorrupted body of the Saint seen and touched by Abbot Sampson and many of the brethren.

From this story of Lothbroc it is inferred by Sir Henry Spelman that Yarmouth could not have been in existence at that time.

Page 5.—*Lying within the mayne sea.*

"It is plain that the site of this town was under water at such time as the Romans possessed this part of England; for their castle, now called Castor, was then fixed to guard the entrance of the Garienis, Hierus, or Yare, on the extremity of the land, on the north-east side of the Garienis Ostium, as then called; and on the opposite side they fixed their Fortification called Garianonum, afterwards Cnobisburgh, and now Burgh Castle, to defend that side, so that by means of them no one could, without leave, enter that vast arm of the sea called the Garienis Ostium (now Baraden or Braydon) to invade the country; and since that time, all the land between Castor and Yarmouth, and that on which Yarmouth now stands, and that between Yarmouth and the sea, hath been left; and, indeed, it is highly probable, by the nature of the place and the digging of wells, &c. that the whole island of Lothingland, long before the time of the Romans, must be sand, thrown up and lodged there by the sea; but whether at the great change supposed to be made at the disjunction of this island from the continent of France or since, we know not."

"A° 46 after X<sup>t</sup>, the Romans entered this part of England. A° 418, the Romans left Britain." (*M. S. Notes by Blomefield.*)

Mr. Robberds, in his "*Geological and Historical Observations on the Eastern Valleys of Norfolk*," speaking of this "vast arm of the sea," which, "penetrating to a considerable distance into the interior of the provence, must have afforded to invaders a facility of access, which will account both for its having been the scene of so many barbarous excursions, and for the labor bestowed by the Romans upon its defence," says, at p. 22 "within a comparatively short space, we find the vestiges of three of these frontier posts, which particularly claim our attention: these are at Caister, about three miles to the north of Yarmouth—at the well-known ruins called Burgh Castle—and at another Burgh, a few miles farther to the south, generally distinguished by the appellation of Whitaker Burgh, from the name of the adjoining village. All these remains are situate on the very edge of the valley, standing immediately on that line of rising ground which appears to have formed the ancient shore; and in the case of Burgh Castle, where the plan of the fortification may be most distinctly traced, it is remarkable that only three sides

of the enclosure were walled ; the fourth, which was left open, being that next to the valley, it is evident that its defence was entrusted to the waves by which it was washed, and to the powerful navy of Rome, which found there a secure harbour. In any other point of view, it would be difficult to assign a satisfactory reason that could have induced the Romans to fix a station at Caister, in the midst of a sandy and unproductive tract, and at a distance from the banks of any river. But admitting these vallies to have been at that period covered by the sea, this becomes at once an important post, overlooking the entrance of a wide estuary, and commanding its extensive navigation."

"Deposits of marine shells are found extending along the declivities of the hills on both sides of the valley of the Yare, and uniformly at an elevation of about forty feet above the surface of the interjacent meadows."

*Robberds, p. 9.*

The walls of Burgh Castle, enclosing an area of nearly six acres, are among the most perfect specimens of Roman fortification remaining in this country.

The present possessor (by a recent purchase) is Sir John Boileau, Bart. ; and thus, in the eloquent language of Mr. Bancroft, Minister to this country from the United States of America, in a speech recently delivered at the Town Hall, Great Yarmouth, on the occasion of the visit of the Archæological Institute, "the Castle, which was raised by imperial power, and upon whose walls Rome planted her triumphant banner, as if to defy the world she had conquered, now comes an humble supplicant to the bounty of an English Gentleman to be preserved from destruction."

Page 7.—*Began to grow into sight.*

"This passage is quoted in my *Remarks upon Garianonum*, page 7, 8vo. 1774. I.I."

*MS. Note by Ives.*

A second edition of this work, with a biographical notice of the author, was published in 1803, by Dawson Turner, Esq., F.S.A.

Page 7.—*Did growe to be drye.*

"By comparison of things, it seems that now the sand began to be dry, and continued to be so more and more; and on account of the fishermen

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settling there, it is highly probable that Felix, the first Bishop of the East Angles, fixed the old and first church, which was dedicated to St. Benedict, here, and so the church hath ever belonged to the See, till assigned by Bishop Herbert to his monks at Norwich, and the Dean and Chapter of which cathedral now enjoy it; and the tithe-fish used to be paid to the serving chaplains, until assigned by Herbert, the founder of the present church of St. Nicholas (the patron of fishermen) to the monks. That Felix owned Flixton hard by, in the island of Lovingland, is very plain, by its present name: and that he dwelt there before he fixed his See at Dunwich tradition still avers."

"By the dedication (to St. Benedict) it is plain the first church was built after 596, for in that year the order of St. Bennet was first introduced by Austin the monk into England, and he became a favorite saint; and indeed it is highly probable that Felix himself settled here, and removed to Dunwich from hence when he fixed his See there, the distance being but small."

"Felix governed the See about seventeen years, and died in 647, and consequently the first church and town fixed here was about 636, in the time of King Sigebert, who brought over the said Felix. That it increased fast is plain; and that the lordship belonged always to the King, Domesday shews, (fo. 17 *Sub titulo Norf. Rex.*,) for in the Confessor's time, it was a place of repute and good value."

*MS. Notes by Blomefield.*

Page 8.—*Herbertus.*

Herbert de Losing or Lozinga came from Normandy with William Rufus. "First was he here in England by fryndeshyp made Abbot of Rameseye, and afterwards Byshop of Thetforde by flattery and fat payment, in the year of our Lorde 1091." (Bale, fo. 44.) Being cited before Pope Pascal II. at Rome, 1093, for simoniacal practices, he was commanded to build certain churches and monasteries as a penance: and having removed the Episcopal See from Thetford to Norwich, he, on the Ninth of April, 1094, was consecrated in his new city by Thomas Archbishop of York, and in 1096, he laid the foundation stone of a Conventual Cathedral, which the Pope soon afterwards constituted the Mother Church of all Norfolk and Suffolk. Besides this "Chappell" at Yarmouth, he built several other

Churches in his Diocese. He was a man of great eloquence and learning, and filled the important office of Lord Chancellor of England. He died in 1119, and was buried in the Cathedral at Norwich, where there is a figure of him over the door of the north transept.

Page 8.—*Waxed in height.*

Nashe, in his "*Lenten Stuff*," published in 1599, says,

"——— *caput extulit undis.*

"The sands set up shop for themselves."

Page 8.—*Fishermen and Merchaunts.*

"So now, by pregnant probabilities, it is in my opinion very clear, that from the landing of Cerdicus in anno 496, the sand by defluxion of tide did by little and little lift his head above water, and so in a short time after, sundry fishermen, as well of this kingdom, viz., the *Five Ports*, (being then the principal fishermen of England), as also of France, Flanders, and the Low Countries, yearly about the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel resorted thither, where they continued in tents made for the purpose by the space of forty days, about the killing, trimming, salting, and selling of herrings to all that came thither for that purpose. Whereunto did resort the merchants of London, Norwich, and other places, to buy herrings during that season, and then departed."

"So in short time after, as that sand became firm land, and that thereby traffick became more and more to be increased, men finding the same to be a commodious place to dwell and inhabit in, did for that purpose gather themselves together to have continual residence therein. Since which time it hath pleased our good God of a small beginning to encrease it at this present (1619) to the number of not so few as twelve hundred householders. I may justly say of this town as Cardinal Caspar Canterini, in his book entitled the '*Commonwealth of Venice*,' saith of that city, that the situation of this town is rather to be attributed to some divine providence than to any human industry, and beyond the belief of those who have not seen it—not only most safe and sure, both by land and sea from all violence, but also in the highest degree opportune and commodious to the abundance of all things behoofull to the inha-

bitants, as also for traffick of all sorts of merchandizes with any of the maritime towns of this kingdom." *Extracts from the MS. of Manship the younger.*

Page 9.—*Provoste of Iernemouthe.*

Before the reign of Henry I. the kings of England usually granted the Burgh to some Earl, who appointed a Port-Reve to collect the customs. That Monarch, in the ninth year of his reign, took the Burgh of Yarmouth into his own hands, and appointed a *Provost*, who collected the King's Customs, and governed the Burgh in the King's name.

He had his office, and probably his residence, in or near the place still called the *Conge*

Manship the younger says, that "all ships and vessels coming to Yarmouth were charged and discharged at the Quay there, right over against it, which to this day is called the Lord's Quay; and in the Roll of the twelfth of Edward II. remaining in the Vestry of Yarmouth, I do find that the aforesaid Conge is called The King's Conge."

This title of the *Lord's Quay* was acquired when the customary payments were made to the Earl who held the Burgh, by grant from the crown. In the reign of Henry II. the customs were farmed at a certain fixed rent; but by the Charter of King John, the Burgesses were made free, with power to take all the King's Customs arising out of the Burgh, on payment to him and his heirs for ever of a fee-farm rent of £55, which rent was afterwards often remitted towards the repairs of the Haven.

*See pp. 20, 21, 26, 33.*

THE CONGE is immediately opposite the Railway Terminus now building; and this was the most considerable part of the town before the north haven choaked up and became useless.

So late as the year 1812, the Custom House remained in this part of the town, being adjoining the present residence of John Mortlock Lacon, Esq., under whose house there are some spacious groined vaults, still used for bonding goods.

Page 9.—*A fayer and goodlie Churche.*

"The great Church of St. Nicholas," says William of Worcester, "was encreased in 1250;" and on the second of April, 1286, it was (according to

Blomefield), *consecrated* by William de Middleton, Bishop of Norwich, "to the honor of St. Nicholas, the Bishop," and he translated the Feast of the Dedication to the seventh of April."

The Church is cruciform, with a tower and spire in the centre. It extends from east to west 225 feet, and in breadth (exclusive of the transepts) 106 feet. The chancel is very large, with north and south aisles or chapels; in the latter, a piscina and sedilia still remain. The tower is early English, carried on fine and lofty arches, with rich mouldings. The aisles are now much wider than the nave. On both sides of the nave the original corbel tables are seen under the present roofs of the aisles, shewing that the original aisles were narrow, and had lean-to walls below these corbels. The chancel aisles or chapels were also added and enlarged, probably at the same time as the aisles and the nave. A Norman window, recently discovered in the north transept, proves that part of the church to be as old as the time of Bishop Herbert. The arches dividing the transepts from the chancel chapels and aisles of the church are of very large span and of superior beauty. The arches and pillars of the nave are early English. The ceilings of the nave, aisles, and transepts are panelled; and among the shields upon the bosses, at the intersection of the ribs of the ceiling in the south aisle are the arms of King Edward III, Edward the Black Prince, Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, Thomas of Brotherton, Duke of Norfolk, Gournay, De Beketon, Bardolph, De Boys, Fastolf, and some others. The west end has three large gables, all of the early English style, (the centre one being the smallest), with triple lancet windows. The south porch is large and handsome, having a chamber over it, which was probably "The Chamber Vestry of the Sexton."

Manship the younger calls this "a most beautiful, large, and spacious church, not much inferior to many cathedrals;" and says that, "the goodly spire steeple erected upon four stately pillars, was in height one hundred and eighty six feet." He asserts, that in his time, (1619) the congregation consisted "at least of six thousand communicants;" and adds, that "in the chancel on the south side were placed the Bailiffs and their brethren, then called the Four and Twenty, and now by the Charter of King James, Aldermen; and on

the north side of the middle chancel were those which then were called Eight and Fortys, now Common Councilmen placed; to both which Companys did one Minister read both the chapters of the Old and New Testament with an audible voice and very distinctly, whilst another Minister did the like to the residue in the body of the church assembled; and at the time of the Litany, the whole number of the said Four and Twenty and Eight and Forty repaired into the body of the church in the middle aisle, there humbly kneeling and devoutly praying till the same was ended."

This fine old church has suffered much from violence, and still more from tasteless alterations. The arches dividing the chancel from the transepts have been bricked up. The pinnacles are removed from the tower, and the spire has been considerably shortened. The north aisle was divided from the nave, and in the latter a gallery was erected, and in 1705 two pillars were removed from the nave "to allow more commodious light to the said gallery." Another gallery partially hid the windows in the south aisle, whilst the area was filled with high enclosed pews; one little bench alone remaining to attest the existence of the former open sittings, with their carved ends and poppy heads. These galleries and pews have lately been entirely removed, and the nave and aisles of the church thrown open; a fitting restoration of the whole fabric being now in progress, under the advice of J. H. Hakewell, Esq., and by the direction of the Churchwardens (Cufande Davie and D. A. Gourlay, Esqrs.), and a Committee of Subscribers, of which the Rev. Henry Mackenzie, M. A., the highly-esteemed Incumbent of the parish, is Chairman.

Page 11—*The Charter thereof made and graunted by the said Kinge John.*

This Charter of King John still remains in the "Hutch," and is in good preservation. It is witnessed by John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich; and as the town is probably indebted to this powerful prelate for the important privileges conferred by this first Charter of Incorporation, some account of him may not be considered as misplaced.

John de Grey was consecrated in the year 1200, having previously been Secretary and Chaplain to King John, one of the Justices itinerant, and one of the Vice-Chancellors or Assistants to Hubert, Archbishop of Canter-

bury, the Lord Chancellor who died in 1206. He became President of the Cotuncil and Chief Justice of England; for at that time and long afterwards all judicial offices were filled by the Clergy, who alone were sufficiently learned; and it is "worthy to be had in remembrance," that to the Bishops and Clergy the people were in those dark ages frequently indebted for obtaining the recognition of civil rights by arbitrary Monarchs and rapacious Barons.

This prelate was all powerful with King John, as his great riches enabled him to supply his necessitous sovereign with money, holding the "Great Crown" and all the regalia in pawn.

He obtained from the King the confirmation of a Charter to the town of Lynn, and built a Palace at Gaywood.

In 1210 he went to Ireland, and being "an hardy, able man, of singular wisdom and tried fidelity," was left there to govern as Lord Deputy. In 1212 he "gathered an army, entered the King of France's territories and took several castles." He had been elected Archbishop of Canterbury; but the Pope "finding him unfit for his turn, would undo all again," and Stephen de Langton was made Archbishop. This circumstance led to many of the troubles which ensued. The Bishop was sent on an embassy to the Emperor Otho, and afterwards to the Pope, and died at Poitiers, October 18, 1214. His body was brought to England and buried in Norwich Cathedral.

The men of Yarmouth were not ungrateful to King John, for, says Manship the younger, "although Yarmouth was strongly enforced to yield the town unto the tumultuous Barons of England, yet did that town in requital of the kind good will of their true Liege Lord and natural Sovereign King John towards them, withstand all the force intended against them, minding to the last man never to give over; but the same, in the behalf and to the use of their true Lord King and Patron, King John, stoutly to defend and keep against all assailants, although, besides *more than manlike resistance, it cost their purses full dearly.*" In estimating the character of King John, we must bear in mind that he was greatly disliked by the Ecclesiastics, who were then the only chroniclers. They accuse him of having extorted from them a portion of that vast wealth which they are known to have accumulated, sometimes by engaging in matters unsuited to their religious character; the Cistercian monks, for instance, being at that time the great exporters of wool. He was, however, popular with the commons; he

greatly encouraged trade; he employed a vast number of seamen, and he granted more privileges to the *Outports* than any of his predecessors, and those places were all, as in the case of Yarmouth, devoted to his interest.

Page 11.—*By his two several Charters.*

Both these Charters, which were for the better protection of the goods of the Burgesses from being arrested, are dated at Norwich, where the King then was “*Dat, per manum n’tram apud Norwic;*” and they are witnessed by Walter de Calthorp, Bishop of Norwich, (called de Suffield, from the place of his first preferment) who died shortly afterwards. This prelate drew up a description of the value of all the Church Livings in England, by command of Pope Innocent, which was confirmed by his Holiness in 1256, and is known as the Norwich or Walter’s Taxation, and was used in the subsequent ratings of the clergy. He was an eloquent preacher, and one of the most famous Bishops of his time, being “well versed in all divine and human laws, of exceeding charity, and of great devotion;” and “of such exceeding sanctity and affable behaviour was he, that the common people believed many miracles were wrought at his tomb; which afterwards became so enriched thereby, that it was esteemed a Shrine to which pilgrimages were made;” yet we find by his will, which curiously illustrates the manners and customs of the age, that he kept “*a pack of hounds,*” which he bequeathed, with “one cup and one palfry to his Sovereign Lord the King.” After numerous bequests of money, rings, jewels, books, wine, horses, &c., he gave to William de Calthorp “all his *armour*, a fine standing cup, and his emerald ring; and for many kindnesses and services done, commanded him every year to feed one hundred poor people at the Assumption day, and to give a poor person a dinner every day in the year.” To his successor in the see, he gave “an ancient cup of curious workmanship, beseeching God to direct him in the way of eternal salvation; recommending to him, next the care of his Bishoprick, the Hospital of St. Giles, at Norwich, which he had founded, (now called the Great Hospital), and all his servants who had faithfully served him in the church, for which doing he gave them God’s blessing and his own, declaring that, if they had offended in any point, he forgave them, absolving them *as much as he could* (*quantum possum*) from all their sins.”

*Blomefield, Britton, &c.*

Page 11.—*With a Walle and with a Diche.*

"It pleased King Henry III. to give leave to enclose the same town with a wall and a ditch, which, on the north, east, and south parts was shortly after built and finished, with a fair high wall, embattled, and most magnificently towered and turreted, exceeding comely; and in like manner be to this day continued accordingly, to the exceeding great strength of Norfolk and Suffolk, and of this kingdom." *Extract from the MS. of Manship the younger.*

It appears, however, that these fortifications were not completed till the reign of Edward III., when the town wall contained a compass of about 2238 yards, having ten gates and sixteen towers. The work had been greatly impeded by the plague (*See p. 17 and Note*) which in the mean time had desolated the town; and there is a tradition that the north gate was built by the persons who had been employed in burying the dead, and who had thereby acquired great wealth.

A considerable quantity of stone for these fortifications was brought from Caen.

The town wall can still be traced throughout its whole extent, and the greater portion of it remains entire. It is built with a face of cut flint, and the bricks used in the walls and towers are of a form between that of Roman tiles and the common Flemish brick. Most of the towers remain in a more or less perfect state. The outer side is circular, the inner flat. They were used as prisons for the Royalists taken at sea during the Civil war.

All the gates have been removed.

Page 11.—*And for havenge a Prison or Goale.*

"Also to grant unto us a gaol for prisoners and malefactors, according to the laws of this land to be imprisoned, which ever since has been continued, and is commonly called by the name of the *Toll House*."

*MS. of Manship the younger.*

Stephen de Stalham, a burgess of Yarmouth, by his will made in 1362, after directing his body to be buried in St. Nicholas' Church, and bequeathing "to the High Altar of Yarmouth Church *for his tenths forgotten*, twenty marks, and to the repair of the said Church five marks," and giving legacies



to all the Monastic establishments in the town, devised "to Agathy his wife for the term of her life, the tenement with the appurtenances called *the Toll House*, which he had purchased of the executors of William atte Mawe (Atmore ?), in Great Yarmouth," and after her decease to a then expectant son or daughter still unborn.

It is situate in a street formerly called Middlegate Street, and was called the *Toll House*, because the toll or duty upon herrings (*See p. 17*) was collected there.

Two very good early English doorways still remain in this building, which is still used as a gaol and court-house. One of these doorways is at the top of an *external* staircase, and has the tooth ornament in the jambs, with good mouldings and shafts. On the opposite side of the landing place is a two-light open early English window, with cinquefoil heads and shafts in the jambs. The other door way has recently been discovered in the wall of the room now used for the courts. It has the tooth ornament in the arch mouldings, and has recently been judiciously restored by the town-surveyor, (Mr. Hilling) much to the credit of the Town Council.

Page 11.—*Diverse liberties and priviledges.*

A Court of *Hustings*, afterwards called *Le Burgh Court*, seems to have been held by prescription from the first origin of the Borough. King John, by his Charter, granted to the Burgesses of Yarmouth, that "none plead out of the Burgh of Yarmouth except the pleas of out tenure." Many disputes having arisen respecting the interpretation of the word "*Placitet*" in that Charter, King Edward I. granted a Charter to his "beloved Burgesses," in which its legal signification was determined.

BLOMEFIELD has inserted in the MS. the following Notes:—"Ro. 82, Margaret, Widow of Richard Fastolf, of Great Yarmouth, brought her action for her dower in her husband's estate in Yarmouth, against Oliver and John and others, sons of the said Richard Fastolf, but the Burgesses in right of the liberty of Yarmouth remanded the action to be tried at Yarmouth according to ancient custom: but the Bailiffs and chief of that town being great enemies of the said Margaret, would not suffer justice to be done to her there, on which she complained to the King, who ordered the Sheriff and four

Knights of the county of Norfolk to be at the hearing of her cause on a fixed day at Yarmouth, when the Bailiffs obstinately refused meeting them, or holding a court, so that they were forced to go away without anything done, upon which they were all brought to answer in the County, &c., and to the Justices of the King's Bench, the Sheriff and four Knights, &c.; and she recovered her dower in the capital mansion of her husband Richard, in Yarmouth."

"*Rot. 52.* Margaret, late wife of Richard Fastolf, sued Alexander Fastolf, of Yarmouth, for the moiety of a messuage and fifteen acres in Caister by Yarmouth, and of fifteen acres in Filby, and three acres and a half in Scratchby, as her dower; and she remitted her dower for ten quarters of barley yearly."

The FASTOLFEs were a powerful family in Yarmouth at a very early period. Alexander Fastolfe was Bailiff in 1280, and during the succeeding century the name frequently occurs in the list of Bailiffs, and in the roll of Burgesses in Parliament.

In 1295 Sir John Botetourt, Admiral of the North Fleet, whose rendezvous was at Yarmouth, granted to Thomas Fastolfe "to remain in the town of Yarmouth for keeping his Bailiwick and the passage of the said town in the name of the King, and that he should not go over sea in the Yarmouth fleet."

Thomas Fastolfe was one of the founders of the Dominican Priory, and of the Hospital of St. Mary, at Yarmouth.

Richard Fastolfe, by his will made in 1356, desired to be buried in St. Katherine's Chapel, in the Church of St. Nicholas, in Yarmouth, and he bequeathed five shillings annually out of certain rents to the "light" in that chapel, besides bequests to the High Altar and "St. Mary's Light." He was also a benefactor to the Benedictine Priory. By this will, we learn that there were then three Chaplains, a Deacon, and three Parish Clerks, as they all had legacies. He was likewise a benefactor to St. Mary's Hospital, founded by Thomas Fastolfe.

In 1373 William Nevill, Lord Admiral of the North, appointed Hugh Fastolfe, of Great Yarmouth, his deputy.

This family acquired large possessions in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

John Fastolfe was Lord of Caister in 1356, having purchased the Manor of Vaux and Bozoun, formerly held by the Lords Bardolf, who had it by marriage with an heiress of the Gournays or Gurneys.

John Fastolfe, Lord of Vaux, and Reedhams, and Castor Manors, was buried in the chapel of St. Nicholas, in Yarmouth Church, where his obit was yearly celebrated. He was succeeded by his son and heir, Sir John Fastolf, *k. c.* This distinguished soldier, (whose fame has unjustly suffered from the stigma of cowardice affixed to it by our great Dramatist, in the first part of his play of King Henry vi.) commenced his military career as Esquire to the Duke of Clarence, second son to King Henry iv., when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was one of the Knights who attended King Henry v. in his first expedition into France, and bore a distinguished part in the campaigns of that monarch, and of the Regent Duke of Bedford. He was at the taking of Harfleur, of which place he was made Lieutenant Governor. He fought at Agincourt; was at the siege of Rouen, and at the capture of Caen, Valaise, and Seey. For these important services he was appointed Governor of Anjou and Maine. He was made a Banneret on the field of Verneuil, at which battle, assisted by Lord Willoughby, he took the Duke d'Alençon prisoner. He also greatly distinguished himself in the engagement called "The Battle of the Herrings," where, with a very inferior force, he cut off and destroyed a detachment of three thousand men, bearing supplies to the city of Orleans, then besieged by the English army. At the battle of Patay the incident occurred, which alone served as some slight foundation for the character drawn of him by Shakspeare. The body of troops which Sir John Fastolfe commanded fled panic-struck before the "Maid of Orleans," and the Knight was borne away with them. What amount of blame may justly be attributed to Fastolfe for the dishonor of his troops on this occasion, cannot well be ascertained; but it is certain that he was not degraded by tearing the garter from his leg, nor could King Henry vi. have said—

"Henceforth we banish thee on pain of death,"

for the very next year he was appointed Lieutenant of Caen, and was employed in the important and delicate mission of concluding a peace with France.

On retiring from the active service of the state, he obtained permission from King Henry vi. to build a castle at Caister, near Yarmouth, where he resided in great state till his death, enjoying the friendship and esteem of his most distinguished contemporaries. The picturesque ruins of this once sumptuous castellated mansion still remain.

He died in 1459, aged eighty years, and was buried within the precincts of the abbey church of St. Bennet's, at Holme.—*See Note to p. 41.*

By his will he bequeathed one hundred marks towards the repairs and support of the Haven of Great Yarmouth, and the maintenance of the walls.

He had "a very fine house" in Yarmouth, the site of which is not now known, and the name of Fastolfe is utterly extinct.

On removing the "Aldermen's Gallery" from the south aisle of St. Nicholas' church, a few months since, the remains of a tomb were discovered, with a piscina on the east side. It is recessed beneath an ogee arch, formerly richly crocketed, the mouldings still bearing traces of gilding and colour. A shield, within a quatrefoil in the apex of the arch, emblazoned with a bend over a quarterly coat, leads to the conjecture, that it belonged to the Fastolfe family. All the projecting stone mouldings and crocket work have been cut away, to make a smooth surface for the accommodation of the gallery.

The Sir John Fastolfe mentioned in Shakspeare's play of Henry vi. and his prototype of Caister, are not to be confounded (as has often been the case) with the "fat old knight," Sir John Falstaff, who figures in the plays of Henry iv and Henry v, and who, as the readers of Shakspeare will recollect, was banished from court on the accession of "sweet Prince Hal" to the throne.

In the "Paston Correspondence" there are several letters to and from Sir John Fastolfe; but the following, addressed by him to Sir John Paston, and now in the possession of the Editor, has, he believes, never been published.

"Worshypfull and ryghte welbelovyd cosyn I comaund me to you. Please you to here, that the Pryore and Convent of Norwyche have wythhalden certeyn rent for landes, that they halden of me wythynne my maner of Haylysdon, and ye ij tapers of wax of ij lbs. wyghte by the space of xviij

yere, that mountyth xxj. o. valued in money. And the Lordes of the seyde maner beyng before me and y yn my tyme, have been seised and possessed of the sayd rent. Pyng you to speke wyth the Pryore, or comaundyng me unto hym. And that ye lyke to move hym to make me paym't as his dewtee ys, so as y have no cause to gowe further, and to doo as justice requyr'th. He hath xxx acres lande or more by the seyde rent, and whyht ought to pay me othyr rent more by myne evidense—More over y pry you cosen, that I may speke wyth you, or (before) y ryde, and that on Thursday by the ferthest, and then y shall tell you tydyngs off the Parlem't, and that ye fayle not, as my trust ys yn you. I pray God have you in hys gounid nce.

Wreten at Castor the x day off Julie, 1449,

Yr cosen, JOHN FASTOLFE.

*To the Worshypfull Sr, and my myght  
well beloved cosen, John Paston.*

For a very interesting account of the family of Fastolfe, and of the castle, which, after the death of Sir John, was besieged and taken by the Duke of Norfolk, without any legal warrant or title, see "*The History of Caister Castle*," by Dawson Turner, Esq., F. S. A.

Page 12.—*Also, a° 1307, the said King Edward, &c.*

By this Charter, King Edward I. "for the good and laudable service which our beloved and faithful burgesses, and our good men of Great Yarmouth, to us and our progenitors, formerly Kings of England have done and in time to come may do for us and our heirs," granted that the burgesses should "be quit of all tallages and aids, payable to us and our heirs, for the bodies of their own proper ships, and the tackling thereof," and that in respect of goods and merchandise purchased by the burgesses in Ireland, "no man shall be their partner of those goods and merchandize, nor with them in any manner partake thereof, *against the will of the said burgesses and men.*"

What must have been the state of trade to have rendered such enactments necessary!

Moreover, the King grants to all persons thereafter born in the burgh, "altho' they shall hold lands and tenements without the liberty of the said town, by such service whereby the marriages of the same by reason of their nonage ought to us or our heirs to belong, according to the law and custom of our kingdom; nevertheless, according to the liberty of the town aforesaid, may marry themselves, without occasion or impediment of us or our heirs for ever, saving the right of every other person whomsoever."

Three centuries later, the corporation attempted to exercise an authority over the laws of marriage, far more arbitrary than that which the Sovereign by this Charter relinquished, for on the twenty-ninth of December, 1626, an order was made, prohibiting the poor from marrying, unless they could first procure a certificate from the Alderman and Chief Constable of the ward in which they resided, of their capacity to maintain a family.

This is the first Charter in which the word great (*Magna*) is prefixed to the name of Yarmouth (*Iernemutha*).

Page 12.—*L'res. Patentes.*

Walter Reynolds, Bishop of Worcester, was then "Keeper of the Great Seal;" and he is a singular instance of a person holding the office with that title, after having held it as "Chancellor," whilst there are many instances of a person holding it as "Chancellor," after having held it as "Keeper." He continued Keeper after being installed Archbishop of Canterbury.

Page 13.—*Two Lord Admirals.*

No Lord High Admiral is recorded until the eighth year of King Henry III., when Richard de Lucy, of Newington Lucies in Kent, begins the list; after whom, the roll is continued without interruption to the present time.

William de Leybourne was Lord Admiral in the fifteenth year of King Edward I., and was summoned as a Peer to Parliament in 1299; but the office being afterwards considered of too much importance to be managed by one person, King Edward II. appointed two Lord Admirals, of whom Sir John de Botetourte, who had charge from the Thames mouth northward,

and was called the Yarmouth Admiral, was one. (*See p. 59.*) Sir John de Boteturte was a Norfolk Knight, and held lands in Strumpshaw and other parishes in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth. He was one of those great lords who sent the Pope a letter denying his jurisdiction in temporal matters in Scotland. He was of the King's council, and was summoned to Parliament in 1308. This antient Barony is now held by the Duke of Beaufort.

A Yarmouth man (*see the next note*) had the honor of being the fourth on the list, as Lord Admiral of the North. He held the office in two successive reigns, and for a longer period than any other person. Sir Robert Laburnus, mentioned in the text, is Sir Robert Leybourne, of Leybourne Castle. Thomas de Drayton, Lord Admiral of the North, in 1338, was also a Yarmouth man, and bailiff in the two succeeding years.

Sir Robert de Morley, a Norfolk man, Lord of Hingham as he is styled, was Lord Admiral of the North to King Edward III.

*See Notes to pp. 16, 17.*

The office continued to be administered by two Admirals (with rare exceptions) until the reign of King Henry IV., when the Duke of Clarence managed the office of Lord High Admiral alone.

In later times it has always been in commission, except (by a remarkable coincidence) on the occasion of its being held by his late Majesty, King William IV., when *Duke of Clarence*.

Page 13.—*John Perebrowne.*

JOHN PEREBROWNE was Bailiff of Yarmouth thirteen times, between the years 1312 and 1339.

His commissions, as Admiral of the North, are thus entered in the "*Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*," preserved in the Tower of London.

Ed. II.—m. 13.—Joh̄nes Perbrun, burgens' villæ de Magna Yermouth, Admirallus flotæ navium R's versus partes boreales.

Robtus Battail Baro quinque portuum capitaneus et admirallus flotæ navium de Quinque Portubus.

Ed. II.—m. 11.—Joh̄nes Perbrun, burgens' de Magna Yermouth, capitaneus et admirallus flovæ navium Regis ab ore Thamesis versus partes boreales.

Ed. III.—m. 23.—Joh'nes Perbroune, capitaneus et admirallus flotæ navium Magnæ Yermouth ac omnium aliorum locorum ab ore Thames per costeram maris versus partes boreales.

Walesius de Valdoines, Capitanus et Admirall' Quinque Portuum ac aliorum locorum versus partes occidentalis.

In the "*Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium*" are the following entries, by which it appears that he was one of the "Customers" of the Borough.

Ed. II.—R. commisit Johi. Perbroun de Magna Iernemuth custumam de Shyrebek q'rone inimici, &c. Robti Walkefare in, &c. hena' q'mdiu, &c. reddo inde p. ann. xx<sup>II</sup>, &c. Ro. 22.

Ed. II.—R. assignavit Joh'em Perbroun ad colligend' custumas, &c. in portu ville Magne Iernemuth q'mdiu, &c. Ro. 13.

Ed. II.—R. assignavit Galf'm de Drayton et Joh'em Perbroun ad custuman lane, &c. in partu ville Magne Iernemuth & in singlis locis abinde p. costeram maris usq. Gippewicum q'mdiu, &c. levand' et colligend', &c. Ro. 1.

Ed. III.—R. taxatorib' et collectorib, decime et quinte decime in com' Norff, salt'm mandamus vob' q'd de denar' de decima &c. solvatis Joh'i Perbroun quem constituimus capitaneum et admirallum flote n're navium que in obsequium n'rm ad ptes Scocie sunt venture centum marcas sup expensis marinario' quinq' navium quas apud Magna Iernemutam et Pvam Iernemutam et Gorleston p'videri et exinde usq. d'cas ptes Scocio ordinavim' destinare faciend' put, &c. Et hoc, &c. Ro. 25.

Ed. III.—R. assignavit Joh'em Perbroun et Thomas de Drayton ad custumam lana', &c. in portu ville Magne Iernemuth et in singlis locis abinde p. costeram maris usq. Gippewicum colligend', &c. Ro. 3.

"*Gippewicum*," the place to which the jurisdiction of these farmers of the King's custom on wools extended, means Ipswich; originally called *Gippovicus*, the town on the river Gipping (which here falls into the Orwell) and corrupted gradually into *Gippwich*, and finally *Ipswich*. The inscription on the corporate seal of this town is "S. Comunitatis ville *Gipewici*."

The Admiral represented the borough of Great Yarmouth in the Parliament of 1321, which was held at York; and again in the Parliament of 1343, held at Westminster.



His daughter Alice married Sir John le Groos, Knight. She lived in Yarmouth, and died in the time of the great plague there, in 1349. By her will she gave "to Thomas de Begeville, his heirs and assigns, all her rents in Yarmouth, which she had of a legacy of John Perbrune, her late father." She also gives him a *bed*, which proves the value attached to household furniture at that time.

Sir John le Groos was of an old Norfolk family, long seated at Crostwick.

The antient family of De Begeville held a considerable lordship at Winterton, under the abbey of St. Benet at Holme, and were patrons of the advowson.

In 1331 Thomas de Begeville was lord, and had "wreck of the sea" there.

What relation the legatee was to the testatrix does not appear; but she desires in her will to be buried "within the church yard of All Saint's, at Winterton."

Begeville's manor came to Sir John Fastolfe, K.G., and from him to the Pastons.

Sir Thomas le Groos was chief lord and patron in 1628.

#### Page 14.—*Earle of Richmond.*

John de Dreux (also called de Bretagne), Earl of Richmond, youngest son of John Duke of Brittany, by Beatrix Platagenet, daughter of King Henry III. He had a grant from the crown of the fee of the Hundred of Lothingland, which had been forfeited by John de Baliol, King of Scotland. This fee was afterwards held by the Earl of Surrey, and subsequently by Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, by whose descendant, Edmund de la Pole, it was forfeited on his attainder by King Henry VIII. It was re-granted by that Monarch to Edmund Jernegan, or Jerningham, a gentleman of his Privy Chamber, by whose family this claim to half the haven at Great Yarmouth was revived. (*See Note to p. 34*). From the Jerninghams it passed to the families of Wentworth, Allen, and Anguish, and, by purchase of Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, to S. Morton Peto, Esq., M.P. for Norwich, who is the present possessor.

Page 15.—*The next Parliament.*

This Parliament met at Westminster the day after Michaelmas day, but there was probably no time for "private business," the cause of their assembling being to decide whether they thought it best for the King (Edward III.) to proceed by war, or by an amicable treaty with the King of France for the restitution of Aquitaine; and on the twenty-first of November, the Lord Chancellor, accompanied by the Bishop of Worcester and the Bishop of Norwich (William de Melton) departed on an embassy to France.

John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester, (afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury) was then Chancellor. He introduced about this time a great improvement in the administration of justice, by rendering the Court of Chancery stationary at Westminster.

The antient Kings of England were constantly migrating, exercising their powers of "purveyance" and "pre-emption," and taking "renders in kind," in various parts of the kingdom. If the Court kept Christmas at Westminster, the festivities of Easter would take place at Winchester, and Pentecost would be celebrated at Gloucester. Thus the King would visit his many manors and palaces in rotation, and the Courts of Chancery and King's Bench followed the person of the Sovereign, to the great vexation of suitors; as in the case of the burgesses of Yarmouth, who had to appear at Westminster, Leicester, Northampton, York, Salisbury, and Norwich, before judgment could be obtained.

In the Town-Roll of that year is the following entry :—

"Paid to the Lord Chancellor and others the King's Justices, the time they were at Great Yarmouth, by order of John Perebrowne, £1. 2s. 6d., and at the same time paid 13s. 4d. for bread sent them." *Swinden.*

Anciently the Chancellor took cognizance of riots and conspiracies, upon application for sureties of the peace, and exercised a criminal jurisdiction; and it appears that, upon this visit, he took occasion to display his authority, for Manship the younger says, "I find in the Court-Roll of that year, that being here, the Chancellor committed to prison a felon, for stealing beans and other goods within the liberty of Yarmouth."

This criminal jurisdiction has long been obsolete, although articles of the peace might, and so late as 1841, have been exhibited before him.

Page 15.—*The newe place buylded.*

“And as touching those *then* new buildings, which may *now* well be termed old foundations; in the west end of the same they do contain within the walls, in length 107 feet, and in breadth 47 feet, and were begun to be built, as report from one generation to another hath delivered the same, by the young men or Bachelors of that township, whereupon it was called the Bachelor’s Aisle.”

*MS. of Manship the younger.*

Swinden says, “So numerous were the chapels in this church in the reign of Edward III., that though the said church be very large and spacious, yet then it was thought advantageous to divine service to erect a new edifice at the west end thereof, which was called the new work, and intended as an additional Isle or Chapel to the church.”

This “new building” was intended to be separate from the west end of the church, and the above dimensions are mentioned by William of Worcester, who was private Secretary to Sir John Fastolf, and resided with him at Caister Castle, near Yarmouth. He visited this church, and wrote down many particulars respecting the admeasurement. They agree with the remains of the foundation which can still be traced.

Page 16.—*Frenche’s Kinge’s Navye aboute Sluce.*

This was one of the most remarkable engagements in our naval annals.

In February, 1340, King Edward III. and Queen Phillipa, his wife, were present at a tournament held at *Norwich*, and remained some days at the Monastery there; after which the Court passed over to the Continent, and “on the Saturday fortnight before the feast of St. John the Baptist,” says Robert of Avesbury, who lived and wrote in those days, “the King was at Orwell, where there were forty ships or thereabouts preparing for his passage into Flanders, where he was going to his wife and children, whom he had left at the City of Ghent,” when he was informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, then Lord Chancellor, that Philip de Valois, his competitor for the crown of France, had secretly assembled a great fleet in the port of Sluys

for the purpose of intercepting him. Contrary to the advice of the Chancellor, and of Sir John de Morley, his Admiral, the valiant King "resolved to sail at all events," and, in order to assemble a fleet as was the custom in those days, (originating the commuted demand for "ship money" in subsequent reigns) he "issued his orders to all the Ports, both in the North and South, and to the Londoners likewise, to send him aid," which orders were so quickly obeyed, that "in the space of ten days he had a navye as large as he desired," with which "he arrived before the Haven of Sluys on the feast of St. John the Baptist."

"The English perceiving on their approach that the French ships were linked together with chains, and that it was impossible for them to break their line of battle, retired a little and stood back to sea. The French, deceived by this feint, broke their order, and pursued the English, who they thought fled before them: but these having gained the sun and wind tacked and fell upon them with such fury, that they quickly broke and totally defeated them; so that upwards of thirty thousand French were slain upon the spot, of whom numbers, through fear, jumped of their own accord into the sea, and were miserably drowned. Two hundred great ships were taken, in one of which alone there were four hundred dead bodies."

The loss on the side of the English was also severe, being computed at four thousand men.

Sir Hugh Quieret, one of the French Admirals, was killed in the engagement; and Sir Peter de Bahuchet, another of their Admirals, was hanged at the yard arm for imputed misconduct.

*Campbell's Naval History.*

"The King, who was in the flower of his youth," says Froissart, "showed himself on that day a gallant knight."

Page 16.—*The Shippes of this towne.*

"Strong ships be the wooden and best walls of this our realm of England, for not anything of worldly helps can be more providentially by the wit of man devised, nor more wisely performed for the defence of this kingdom, than to have a strong warlike navy always in readiness, not only to defend our enemies from invading, but also to offend them before they

come to us. For as the winds be, so be they swift to invade other kingdoms, and mighty (as good experience hath often manifested unto us) to resist all such as shall attempt the like against us, which (praised be God) this town has always had in readiness. For at such time as Edward III., in the fourth year of his reign, making his preparation to obtain his just right and inheritance to the kingdom of France, it pleased him to direct his writ or mandate, to know what ships were then in Yarmouth meet to serve him in that expedition. There was then returned to be ninety-one in number, as in the Court Rolls of Yarmouth appeareth; for then, and long since, was used in all memorable things performed by this township to be recorded, but now not any, whereby all the worthy deeds performed by this township be buried in the grave of oblivion—the more is the pity.”

“In the fourteenth year of his reign, at Sluys, in Flanders, commonly called the battle of Swine, the townsmen of Yarmouth did him most worthy service.”

“By ancient records I find that, in the twentieth year of Edward III., this town had then in it, of ships of one hundred tons, eighty; of sixty tons, the number of fifty-three; of barks between forty and sixty tons, sixty; of fisher boats, two hundred and fifty.”

Also, in the Roll remaining in the King's great wardrobe, is remembered the great and commendable service performed by Yarmouth, when, as the aforesaid King Edward III. won Calais, which was anno 1347, and in the twenty-first year of his reign, this town sent to him, before Calais, forty-three ships, well furnished and manned with one thousand and seventy-five mariners, *which was almost double to the number of ships sent by London, which was but twenty-five in the whole.*”

*Extracts from the MS. of Manship the younger.*

So skilful were the shipwrights of Yarmouth considered at a very early period, (and they still maintain their superiority) that in 1290, upon the proposed marriage of Prince Edward (afterwards Edward I.) orders were sent by the King to build a beautiful ship (*præparari navum pulcherrimam*) at Yarmouth.

*Swinden.*

The number of registered vessels belonging to the port of Great Yarmouth, in 1846, was six hundred and ninety-seven, the tonnage forty-seven thousand, eight hundred and five.

Page 17.—*The like custumes and dutyes in Kirklee Road.*

There was much difficulty in collecting the revenue at so great a distance from the town, although the utmost severity was used in enforcing payment, for in 1368 John Lauwes was hanged for exporting seven sacks of wool out of Kirkley road, without paying the custom.

*Swinden, p. 926.*

Page 17.—*A greate plague.*

“In this year God Almighty visited mankind with a deadly plague, which began in the south parts of the world and went through even the northern parts thereof, attacking all nations; this plague equally destroyed Christians, Jews, and Saracens, killing the confessor and the confessed. In many places, this plague did not leave the fifth part of the people alive; it struck the world with great fear; so great was the pestilence, that the like was never seen, heard, nor read of before.”

It broke out in Norwich on the 1st January, 1348, and continued for one year, during which time upwards of fifty thousand persons died in that city—(*Lib. Civ. MSS.* in the Guildhall, Norwich, anno 23, *Edw. III.*—quoted by Blomefield.) “In many monasteries and religious houses there were scarce two of twenty left alive;” and in this year, there were no less than one thousand parish churches void of incumbents, insomuch, that William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich (who was a native of that city) obtained permission of Pope Clement VI. to allow sixty clerks to hold rectories and other livings, “though they were only *Shavelings*, and but twenty-one years of age,” that divine service might not cease.

Manship the younger says, that in Yarmouth, this plague “very near in suchwise depopulated the same, that scarcely the number living sufficed to bury the dead.”

Lord Hailes says, “the historians of all countries speak with horror of this pestilence. It took a wider range, and proved more destructive, than any calamity of that nature known in the annals of mankind.”

Simon de Halle, one of the Bailiffs for Yarmouth in this year (1348) died of the plague. By his will, he desired to be buried in St Nicholas’ church yard, and bequeathed legacies to all the monastic establishments in

the town, "to every monk in the priory of the town of Great Yarmouth," and to every chaplain coming to his funeral. *See also Note to p 27.*

Page 17.—*Came in his proper person.*

King Richard II., accompanied by his Queen, (who first taught the English ladies to ride on side-saddles, "for before women used to ride astride like men,") made a progress through Norfolk and Suffolk, visiting the rich abbies of Bury St. Edmund's, Thetford, and Norwich.

Upon "an Inquisition" taken at Yarmouth in the second year of his reign, before William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, and others, it was found, that "there is not any town by thirty lewks upon this coast of the sea, sufficient to resist the enemies of our sovereign Lord the King, but only the said town of Great Yarmouth, which, if it should be surprised and taken by the said enemies, it would redound not only to the damage of the whole countries adjoining, but also of the whole realm besides."

*MS. of Manship the younger.*

"In the reign of Richard II.," says Mr. Suckling in his *History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk*, "when vast preparations were made at Sluys for the invasion of England, the Coast of Suffolk presented a watchful scene. Twelve hundred and eighty-seven ships, according to Froissart, were assembled for this expedition in the opposite harbours of Sluys and Blanckenburgh. The Earls of Stafford and Pembroke were sent to Orwell (query Orford) with five hundred men-at-arms and twelve hundred archers; Sir Henry Percy and Sir Faux Percy, to Yarmouth, with three hundred men-at-arms and six hundred archers; watchmen were posted on all the hills near the sea coast opposite to France and Flanders."

Page 17.—(Note) *Lord Morley.*

Thomas de Morley was a powerful Baron, possessing very considerable estates in the county of Norfolk. He held the hereditary office of Marshald of Ireland, and was Lord of Hingham in Norfolk, where he resided. His mother was of the family of Gournay or Gurney. In 1381 he was summoned to Parliament by writ.

In that year the insurrection of the "Levellers" broke out. "There rose in Suffolk not less than fifty thousand men," who "fell to burning and

destroying the houses and manors of the great men and lawyers." They seized the person of Sir John Cavendish, Lord Chief Justice of England, and beheaded him at Bury St. Edmund's. They also murdered Sir John Cambridge, Prior of Bury, and Sir John Lakinghithe, the keeper of the Baronry.

The insurrection spread into Norfolk, where, says Manship the younger, "a mighty, rascally rout of Rebels (whose leader was John Litester, a dyer of cloth, who some time dwelt in Norwich) hearing of the ungracious feats done in other places, lent themselves to commit all kinds of villainy in like manner in Norfolk; and on the morrow after St. Botolph, entered the town of Great Yarmouth, doing there great outrage, breaking the prison, delivering the prisoners, and committing other villainies; yet were they the next day, by three of the clock, wholly by the townsmen of Yarmouth overcome and enforced to flee from thence, leaving many of their dead carcases behind them, which deed did sufficiently prove the valour of the townsmen of Yarmouth."

The Insurgents however "assembled together, and came and rested before Norwich," where they exacted large sums of money from the citizens; and having seized the persons of Lord Morley and Sir John Brewse (who was Lord of Stinton in Norfolk, and brother-in-law of the Earl of Suffolk) they were sent with three of the rebel leaders to treat with the King. In the mean time Henry Le Spencer, Bishop of Norwich, "a man of remarkable bravery," marched from his manor house of Burley, near Stamford, where he then was, "with not above eight lances and a few archers," and meeting Lord Morley and Sir John Brewse with the three deputies, he ordered the heads of the latter to be struck off and placed on poles, and carried them with him to Wymondham. The insurgents were so surprised and dismayed at this sight, that they turned and fled; and the Bishop being joined by some of the nobles and gentry of his diocese marched into the city, where he was received "with all joy and honour imaginable." Being informed that the rebels still hovered about North Walsham, the valiant Bishop again marched against them, and found them strongly fortified in their camp. He immediately sounded the trumpet for battle, "which much surprised the commons, who expected not such a sudden, rough attack; but the Bishop,



like a true valiant man, taking a spear in his hand, set spurs to his horse, and charged them with such fury, that he quickly made way for his company to follow, and so having gained their trenches, a sharp battle ensued, both sides earnestly striving to gain the victory; but at last the commons were overcome and forced to fly," and great slaughter ensued. Lister was taken, arraigned, condemned, hanged, drawn, and quartered. One "quarter" was set up in his own house at Norwich, one in the city, one at Lynn, and one at Yarmouth, "as a terror to his adherents."

In 1384 Lord Morley was one of those Barons whom King Richard II. summoned to meet him at Newcastle, completely armed, "with his whole service due from him," to march into Scotland.

In 1387 he was sent to Yarmouth with a commission, "pro custodia ville," as Lord Bardolf had in the previous reigns, and Sir John Fastolf afterwards. He had a suit in the court of chivalry respecting the arms of his family. He behaved with great courage in the sea-fight before Harfleur, and coming to King Henry V., at Calais, died there of a fever in 1415.

Page 18.—*And the Crosse covered with leade.*

"Which in process of time decaying, anno 1609, Henry Bemon and John Garton, Bailiffs, at the town's charge, for safeguard of the people from wet, and dry keeping of the corn, which every day is brought thither in great abundance, a very fair cross was newly erected, very fairly paved and leaded, whereon be fixed the measures to buy and sell with; and wherein the Bailiffs, who be clerks of this market, do sit and hold courts, to inquire of all matters concerning that business, and to punish the offenders accordingly. A pillory also was again rebuilt by the town. Which also decaying, another, in stateliness not much inferior to the cross aforesaid, in the year of our Lord 1604, was likewise built and leaded, for the defence of the women bringing butter, cheese, and such like victuals to the market; in the top whereof a place where malefactors adjudged, do receive for their offences accordingly."

*MS. of Manship the younger.*

The cross, removed within the last few years, possessed no sort of architectural interest. It will be known to posterity by the engraving of Butcher's very accurate painting of the Market-place, in the card room, in the Town Hall; and the exact site is now marked by a stone.

The last degrading exhibition of the pillory occurred some thirty years since ; and the "stocks," that favorite punishment in former ages, which stood in the Market-place, nearly opposite the Children's Hospital, have now disappeared.

Page 19.—*L. Chancellor of Englande.*

Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, was then Chancellor. In his time considerable improvement was effected in the administration of the law, by directing issues of fact, arising in the Court of Chancery, to be tried in a court of common law, instead of being tried by the Lord Chancellor himself, with the assistance of the common law judges.

Page 19.—(Note) *Packinge and weighenge of Wolles.*

"There is also a fair, ancient, and stately house, sometime belonging to one Thomas Drayton, a man of great account in Yarmouth ; and as our old chronicle reporteth, famous throughout England, who deceased this life in the year 1359, which was in the thirty-third year of Edward the third ; sundry times Bailiff, and one of the Customers of Yarmouth (for then it had two.) And, in the twentieth year of the reign of that King, he, with one Peter Cressy, a Burgess also of Yarmouth, was received Burgess to the Parliament. Which said house is situate by the haven side, and in place most conveniently seated for the several purposes for which it is now used ; which, about the eleventh year of the reign of Edward the second, was appointed to be *the staple or mart-house for such wool as from port should be transported* ; and by Jordan Fristland and William Blansby, two faithful Burgesses, at the town charge was obtained ; as by the roll of that year within the vestry of Yarmouth remaining, appeareth. But since that time, that house, (viz) the twenty-eighth of September, Anno Dom. 1581, in the twenty-third year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, John Grice and John Bradish, Bailiffs, by indenture from Thomas Damett to William Roberts, Esquire, sometime Under-steward to this township, fully given unto it for ever ; which being conveyed to feoffees, viz. to Thomas Damett and John Coldham and others, they by their deed, dated the sixteenth of September, Anno Regni Jacobi Angliæ primo et Scotiæ sexto, the same Thomas Damett and

Thomas Cotty being Bailiffs, did convey it to this township; the which is now employed to sundry good uses. One part thereof to an house of morning prayer, and for the exercise of the Dutch congregation, which was by the township, anno 1600, by the special procurement of that worthy grave senator, Mr. John Felton (for virtuous men, and such as have well deserved of their country, are not to be passed over in silence) who for his well doing both in church and commonwealth, meriteth everlasting laud remembrance; his principal care and delight being all his lifetime altogether to advance God's glory, and to do good to the commonwealth of this kingdom in general, but especially of this incorporation of Yarmouth, wherein he received his first breath and being, which far above his private estate he preferred; three times supplying the office of Bailiwick, in every which time he most worshipfully and worthily discharged the same; for the good of which township he being employed, spent not only a great part of his life, but also of his worldly substance; and by his great labour and worthy endeavours obtained many special benefits to the good of this township, as by the book of their common councils appeareth; which here, *for brevity*, I pass over; only this one thing amongst many other his well doings, I will set down unto you. How that in that year, being the third time of his Bailiwick, Mr. Thomas Manfield being then his co-partner Bailiff, there was in that year, as formerly I touched, the said house of morning prayer builded, William Knights and Thomas Symonds then being chamberlains, whose great care, diligence, and forwardness to further so great a work, I cannot but highly commend, appointing that Reverend and learned man, Mr. William Fleming, the first lecturer there; to whom was given twenty pounds per annum. The dedicating of which house was confirmed by Doctor William Redmayne (Redman) then Bishop of Norwich, under the seal of his Bishoprick; and since that, likewise approved and confirmed by the Reverend Father in God, John Jeggon, his successor, now Bishop of that diocese, as by the instrument in that behalf appeareth; also, on the top thereof is a fair turret, leaded, also a dial and *Horologe* of great beauty, with spacious leads, which in the year of our Lord 1593, in the time of Roger Drury and Thomas Mortimer, Bailiffs, by the forward carefulness and careful forwardness of Thomas Buttolph and Titus Hardward, then chamberlains, who, for their long and painful good

service done to that township, have since that been called (as worthily deserving and at this present be) into the number of Aldermen, were began to be builded; but the work requiring long labour, the next year following, Henry Stanton and William Crowe, Bailiffs, the aforesaid chamberlains, being found meet men to continue their places, were again elected, and fully finished what the last year they left unperfected. *Upon these leads every Sunday, for the most part in the summer season, after evening prayer ended, the waits or musicians of Yarmouth do sound forth upon several consorts of musical instruments most melodious harmony."*

The above extract affords a fair specimen of the gossiping style of the author; and as the last fact is very curious, it is hoped the reader will excuse its length, and its little connection with the passage in the text.

It may here be remarked, that the old chroniclers always added the names of the Bailiffs to the date of the year in recording any event, and Blomefield has added the following note to the original manuscript.

"All corporations made the same use of their Bailiffs as the Romans did of their Consuls, by adding their names as well as the year of the King's reign, to their public instruments."

The fate of this building is singular. When the Dutch congregation fell off, and the service was discontinued, it was used as a warehouse until 1627, when, in consequence of a dispute between the Dean and Chapter of Norwich and the Bailiffs, it was used as an Episcopal chapel, but being unconsecrated, it was suppressed. It then became a warehouse and sail loft; then a theatre, until the erection of the present one in 1778; again a warehouse until 1802; then a concert room, public library, and town-dues office; for which two latter purposes it continues to be occupied.

In regard to "the Horologe," it may be added, that the clock on the front of the present building is still called the "Dutch Clock."

Page 20.—*A Bridge over the Haven.*

"Over which river or haven, after great controversy between the Lords of Lothingland and the town of Yarmouth about the ferry which conveyed the people over the haven to and from Yarmouth, (which was in that place where the bridge is now builded) to which of them the same ferry should of

right appertain, it pleased King Henry v. to give leave to be built by the town a bridge of stone or wood, at their pleasure, sufficient for horse and man to pass over; by virtue whereof they built, at their own proper cost and charges, a fair and large bridge of main plank and timber, meet for passage of men, horses, and carriages, consisting of *eight arches*, which to this present they do in like manner maintain accordingly. And forasmuch as there was not any part thereof to open and shut when need required, which in two respects was found very inconvenient; the one, for that in time of hostility it could not be drawn up, whereby the enemy might be the more easily resisted and repelled from entrance, and the townsmen might with more ease be defended from peril; the other, for that ships and vessels could not pass in and out when any just occasion required; it was therefore by the assembly of Yarmouth, in the year of our Lord 1553 (which was in the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, when great troubles were then extant, and many more doubted) agreed, that a drawbridge should be made, which was performed accordingly. And forasmuch as there is no less wisdom in preserving, than providence in the first building, the town, therefore, in the year aforesaid, viz. of the drawbridge making, did *prohibit all carts from passing over it.*"

*MS. of Manship the younger.*

Page 20.—*Friers Preachers.*

"A house of Black Friars, called Predicant or Preaching Friars, in the reign of King Henry III. first builded; and by another Henry, the eighth of that name, by authority of Parliament, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, lastly dissolved. In which I do find that one Godfrey Pilgrim, a worthy burgess of this incorporation (for good benefactors be not to be forgotten) did in the year of our Lord 1380, which was in the fourth year of Richard II., at his own proper cost and charge, erect and build a very fair church, therein to say divine service." *MS. of Manship the younger.*

Thomas Fastolf, an inhabitant of Yarmouth, was one of the founders.

The priory seal is engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 61, p. 513.

There are no remains, but the site is known. A garden belonging to the Editor formed part of the precincts, as did all the ground lying between an adjoining street, called "Friar's Lane" and the town wall.

Page 20.—*Friers Minorites.*

"One other of Grey Friars, commonly called the Minorites, situate in the middle part of that town, in the days of King Edward, the second of that name, builded, and by the aforesaid King Henry VIII., in the year aforesaid, of dissolution suppressed." *MS. of Manship the younger.*

Founded by Sir William Gerbrigge, Knight, Bailiff of Yarmouth, according to *Speed*, or, according to *Stowe*, by King Edward II.

A portion of the groined vault of a cloister of the fourteenth century, and a tower-arch of the fifteenth century (the latter in a house in Gaol-street) belonging to the Editor, still remain.

Page 20.—*Friers Carmelites.*

"And one other of the White Friars, seated in the north end of the said town, commonly called the Carmelites, built in the days of Edward III.; but *Mr. Speed*, in his "Theatre," saith (for this is my warrant) that it was built by King Edward I., in anno 1278, which was in the sixth year of his reign. But in what time soever these three friaries were built, *sure I am*, that by the said King Henry VIII., in the time of the general dissolution, they were all at once demolished." *MS. of Manship the younger.*

In 1377 the White Friars of Yarmouth had a patent to enlarge their house.

Sir John de Montacute was buried here in 1392.

There are now no remains.

Besides these houses, there was A PRIORY, "situate near the church," founded by Bishop Herbert, and to which the church of St. Nicholas was attached; the whole being subordinate to the superior monastery, at Norwich.

The establishment consisted of a prior and eight Benedictine monks, who composed a choir, three parish chaplains, and a deacon. These were recalled, and others sent in their stead, as often as the Prior of Norwich pleased.

This building must have been of considerable extent and importance, for we find, that whenever any Royal personage or great man visited Yarmouth, he was "lodged at the Priory."

At the dissolution, it was granted to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, who also became possessed of the patronage of the Church of St. Nicholas, instead of the prior and convent. In 1552 this reformed body granted a lease of the priory and parsonage of Yarmouth, together with all the temporalities belonging to the church in Yarmouth, for eighty years; the lessee covenanting "to find priests and ministers there during the term." Such an unaccountable delegation of duty was most injurious to the church, and naturally gave rise to great dissatisfaction, the town complaining, that "able and sufficient pastors and ministers were not appointed," as indeed could scarcely be expected, considering the slender stipend which the "farmer" could have allowed them, after he had paid his rent and reserved a profit for himself.

Happily this is no longer the case, for the Dean and Chapter, since the expiration of the lease, have exercised their patronage in the way best calculated to serve the cause of the church and the well-being of the parishoners.

The site of the priory is still in the hands of lessees, and the remains, which are converted to the ignoble purpose of a stable, consist of walls of cut flint, containing some very fine windows and door ways.

It is proposed to restore this very interesting building, and to convert it into a NATIONAL SCHOOL: a purpose for which it is well suited.

A view of the interior of the priory was published by Cotman; and there is also a view of the west end in his *Architectural Antiquities*, p. 49.

There was also the HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY, founded in the reign of King Edward I. by Thomas Fastolfe. William Gerbrigge, a Burgess of Yarmouth, endowed it for the maintenance of two priests.

The establishment consisted of a warden, with eight brethren and eight sisters, besides the chaplains or priests.

At the dissolution, the lodgings and chapel were converted into a Grammar School; it is now known as "the Children's Hospital," and is vested in the Charity Trustees.

What remained of the old building has lately been entirely removed, and a commodious but not very scholastic looking edifice erected on the site.

There appear also to have been two leper-houses at or near the north entrance of the town.

Page 21.—*A lardge charter.*

Before the granting of this charter, the King's justices were from time to time requested to hold a sessions of gaol delivery at Yarmouth when occasion required it; but by this "lardge charter," the Burgesses were enabled to constitute justices of the peace in the Burgh, with authority equal to any justice of the peace elsewhere, and to hold sessions of gaol delivery, with power to try and punish capital offences.

There are many entries on the town rolls (quoted by Swinden) of expenses disbursed in procuring the attendance of the judges.—*Ex. gra.*

## 16, E. III.

"Paid to Peter Cressy, one of the Bailiffs, and John Henry Talifer, town clerk, for their expenses to Lynn, to procure Constantine de Mortimer and his fellows, the justices of our Lord the King, &c., to make their sessions at Great Yarmouth ..... 2 marks."

The last occasion upon which this power of life and death was exercised was in 1813, (Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart., being then mayor, and Henry Joddrell, Esq., Recorder) when John Hannah was hanged for the murder of his wife.

By the Municipal Corporation Act, 5 and 6 William IV. c. 76. s. 107., this criminal jurisdiction was abolished.

Page 21.—*Was set on fyre.*

Blomefield quotes this passage from the manuscript, which he says in a note was then in his own custody; and from the expression used, he concludes that the fire was not considered to have been accidentally caused.

"In 1507, on the thirty-first March," says Blomefield, "Thomas Norrice, condemned by Richard Nix, Bishop of Norwich, was for the true profession of the Gospel, burnt in this city: which soon after felt the violence of flames in a great degree, for on the twenty-fifth day of April following, a fire broke out, which burnt with continual violence four days. And it was not long before the same fate attended the city again; for on the fourth day of June following, happened another lamentable fire, which burnt two days and a night." The city was "almost utterly defaced," more than seven hundred houses being destroyed.

M



Page 22.—*The French Queen.*

Mary Tudor, the youngest daughter of King Henry VII., and one of the most beautiful women of her age, married Louis XII.; but that monarch dying soon afterwards, she became the wife of Charles Brandon, who, remarkable for the dignity and gracefulness of his person, had been brought up by King Henry VIII., and raised by him to the Dukedom of Suffolk, forfeited by Edmund de la Pole, who was beheaded in 1513.

The Queen, and the Duke her husband, visited Norwich in 1515, and were "grandly received;" and in 1529 they kept their Christmas there.

Page 22.—*Master of the Colledge of Mettingham.*

Richard Shelton, Archdeacon of St. Asaph, was then Master of the Mettingham College—"a man in those days in water-works holden very expert." He immediately preceded Thomas Manning, the last Master, by whom this College of secular canons and priests was surrendered to King Henry VIII., on the 8th April, 1542. The establishment consisted of thirteen chaplains; and fourteen boys were supported by the College "who served God and were educated in it." The Chapel of the College was elaborately fitted. It was entirely destroyed, and the roof of the College, "which was a very fair one," was carried, in 1544, to Great Yarmouth and placed upon the Guildhall, "and covered with lead very beautifully."

Page 22.—*Burnt with fire.*

"As foreseeing an early desolation, thereby easing a labour to those, that within ten years following demolished the same." "Builded by Godfrey Pilgrim and Thomas Fastolf, which, as by our Rolls appear, were inhabitants of Yarmouth." *Extract from the MS. of Manahip the younger.*

Page 22.—*Insurrection aboute Walsingham.*

This insurrection was occasioned by the suppression of the priory there, containing the shrine of "the Blessed Virgin," which was second only in celebrity and wealth to the famous shrine of St. Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. Pilgrimages were made to "our Lady of Walsingham" by many of our monarchs, including King Henry VIII., who is said to have walked bare-

footed from Barsham, and by foreign princes and multitudes of all ranks. Not to have made a visit to this shrine, and to have left a present there, was, according to Camden, considered *impious*; the inhabitants of Walsingham, we are told by Erasmus, lived by scarcely anything else but the concourse of pilgrims.

It is singular, that two of the "rebelles" should have been brought so great a distance as Yarmouth to be "hanged, drawn, and quartered;" but it was probably done to strike terror into the people, who could not quite understand the sudden change of policy adopted by the government.

Fifteen of the monks, it is said, were "condemned of treason, whereof five suffered."

The road traversed by the pilgrims going to Walsingham, is still called "the Palmer's Way;" and the "Wishing Wells," with some magnificent ruins, still remain and are carefully preserved by the present proprietor, the Rev. D. H. Lee Warner.

Page 23.—*Warres beinge between England and France.*

In the following year, "the night before St. Paul's day," three French vessels entered Yarmouth roads, and attempted to carry off a collier, whereupon the townsmen "made ready a man of war," and with thirty boats in company, pursued the Frenchman; and although they "unfortunately ran their ship aground, whereupon the Frenchmen frequently poured whole vollies of small shot into the said ship, and among the boats, *but without doing any harm to any of them*," they boarded and took two of the enemy's vessels, (the third being wrecked on the Newarp Sand) killed sixteen Frenchmen, and took one hundred and twenty prisoners. The prizes were afterwards employed in "his Majesty's wars," wherein they did *great service*, for which the town received "special commendations."

Page 23.—*Duke of Norfolk.*

Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, K.G., Lord High Admiral, and much employed by King Henry VIII. He married the Princess Anne, daughter of King Edward IV. By his second marriage with the Lady Elizabeth Stafford, daughter of the Duke of Buckingham, he became father of the celebrated Earl of Surrey, who was beheaded on the twentieth January, 1547.

The Duke himself was "committed to the tower" soon after his visit to Yarmouth on the King's business, and all his honors became forfeited. They were restored in 1553, but he died the following year.

His grandson, Thomas Howard, fourth Duke of Norfolk, *k.g.*, was chosen High Steward of Yarmouth in 1560, and was attainted and beheaded in 1572.

The Duke of Norfolk, in virtue of his commission, "disgardening such gardens as were all along within the walls of Yarmouth builded, he caused them to be rampared; for the performance of which those hills without the gates, which the easterly winds in long continuance of time had blown thither, were taken and brought in by the townsmen, and by that means the whole town, within the space of fifteen weeks, was against French and Scotch enemies strongly fortified."

The like was done, says Manship the younger, in 1567, "yet were not those walls sufficiently rampared, till in the year of our Lord 1587, (which was in the year before the Spanish intended invasion, in the 29th year of our late good Queen Elizabeth) at which time they were, from the Black Friars to the Market Gates, very fully and formally finished to the top, with earth and manure, more than forty feet in breadth, resistable, by God's help, against any battery whatsoever."

Page 23.—*Counsel House, called the Gwyde Hall.*

Guilds were associations for the promotion of some common object, whether of trade, charity, or religion. They can be traced back to the time of the Saxons, although the greatest number were founded from the fifteenth to the sixteenth century.

The Trinity or Merchant's Guild, at Great Yarmouth, was as old as the reign of King John, for in his charter he says, "we have also granted them a *Merchant Guild*."

Many other guilds were afterwards established at Great Yarmouth, holding lands, tenements, money, goods, and plate.

They were all dissolved by King Henry VIII., when the "guild-hall, near unto the church, being much ruined, was by the town very substantially repaired and amended, and the walls new buttressed and supported."

"In this hall," says Manship the younger, "in my remembrance, was yearly holden, on Trinity Sunday, a solemn feast for the whole brotherhood; the hall itself being at that time richly hanged and adorned with cloth of arras, tapestry, and other costly furniture, not sparing any dainty fare which might be had for money."

After stating that "in that hall, for the most part, be all their common councils holden, whether it be for the election of their yearly magistrates and officers, or for the making of laws and constitutions, which they commonly call ordinances, for the good rule and government of the incorporation," he relates the following curious custom:—"the same hall being seated near unto the church aforesaid, every member of that house, and so all other there deceasing this life, and to be interred in that church or church yard, are to be brought into the hall aforesaid, when the dead body being carried with the face upwards, doth as it were behold the place where he hath given good or evil counsel, or consented to any wrong doing; which putteth the living in mind of their mortality, that thereby they may be the more careful of their carriage whilst they be living: not much unlike the custom of the Egyptians, who, at their meetings, have a dead man brought in amongst them to remember their mortality."

The present hall was erected in 1723, and displays the singularly inelegant taste which then prevailed. Being now little used for corporate purposes, it is, by permission of the town council, occupied by the children of the national school, until a school-house can be provided elsewhere; and being in a dilapidated state, it is to be hoped that this building will be entirely removed, by which means a fine view of the church will be obtained from the Church Plain and Market Place.

Page 23.—*Did make a finall end.*

"Towards the north were first the Lords Bardolf, after them the Fastolfs, and lastly the Pastons, Lords of Caister, who for the extent of Yarmouth liberties to the northward, did evermore trouble, not only the township, but also sundry private inhabitants of Yarmouth, about commonage of cattle."

"Many great suits and questions did of long time continue between the men of Caister and Yarmouth, touching the extent of either of the town's

liberties, as by the antient rolls remaining in the vestry of Yarmouth very often appeareth, Yarmouth challenging to Grubb's haven to the northward, and they of Caister to the cross on the sands, within Yarmouth liberties, to the southward, between which two places there is more than two furlongs distance, by means whereof many suits and troubles were moved by either party in the vehementest manner that might be, each chasing and impounding the other's cattle, as extremity of law would permit; Yarmouth not sparing the Bailiffs themselves, if at any time they were remiss in maintaining their liberties. Insomuch that John Palmer and John Garton, who were Bailiffs in the year of our Lord God 1622, for suffering Sir William Paston to carry away the wreck of a ship, which was the 'Admiral, of Sluys,' which perished to the south of that haven, were in the year following discommoded."

"Of these broils and garboils complaint was made to the high and mighty prince Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, at his coming to Yarmouth in the year of our Lord, 1545, in the thirty-sixth year of King Henry VIII., at such time as he was sent hither by his Majesty to take view of this township, and for the fortifying thereof. He then promised to be a means to the King to have the controversies determined; whereupon as beseeeming so worthy a Prince, not forgetting his promise nor his true love to this township, the good and quiet whereof he highly respected, the next year following obtained a commission and caused the same to be directed to his highness and unto Thomas Lord Burgh, Sir Robert Southwell, Sir Roger Townshend, Sir Edmund Wyndham, Sir John Jernegan, Knights, and Robert Golding, John Gosnall, Thomas Gawdy, and John Corbett, Esqrs., to hear and end the controversy; who coming here and continuing at the PRIORY at the town's charges by the space of two days (Swinden says eight days) taking great pains in the business, at length, by an indenture, which I have seen in the vestry of Yarmouth, dated the thirtieth day of April, 1546, concluded the same."

*Extracts from MS. of ManSHIP the younger.*

The depositions are given in *Swinden's History*, and some of them are curious.

As a proof of the little regard for human life which formerly existed, we find in the deposition of Robert Wheymond, that he remembered seeing "a payer of galowes for execution to be don upon felons adjudgid within the liberte and corporacion of Gret Yarmouth, standing upon the seid grounde

now in variance betwyn the lymytes aforessaid; and that the same deponent sawe XIII persons hangyng upon the same *at one tyme*."

Henry Ilberd deposes to a whale being cast ashore within the disputed limits; and that the bailiffs at Yarmouth caused the inhabitants to "hewe the seid fyshe in pecys," and then brought it to Yarmouth "to th'use of the the seid town."

Henry Watson deposes, that "a shippe of Breteyn" was there "throwne upon the shoore and soore brosed and broken on the botom;" and that Thomas Ufford and Richard Palmer, "then beyng Bayliffes of Yermouth," received "of the handys of the seid Breteyns *xxs.* for groundage."

Page 23.—*Sir William Paston.*

The family of Paston, known to the public by the interesting collection of papers, called the "Paston Letters," was of great antiquity in Norfolk, having been for ages seated at Paston and Oxnead.

William Paston, of Paston, commonly called "the good judge," was steward of all the courts belonging to Richard Courtnaye, Bishop of Norwich, who, in 1413, granted him "a livery yearly out of his wardrobe of woollen cloth and fur, such as the other peers or nobles of his retinue received yearly;" and King Henry VI. having made him a judge of the court of common pleas, granted him one hundred and ten marks per annum, *with two robes* more than the ordinary fees of the judges, as a special mark of his favour." He married Alice, daughter of Sir Edmund Berry, and died in 1444, and was buried in Norwich cathedral.

Sir John Paston, his son, married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Mauteby, by Margaret, daughter of John Berney, Esq., of Reedham, a family still possessing estates in that parish. He was one of the executors of Sir John Fastolf, K.G., of Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, as mentioned in a former note.

His grandson, Sir William Paston, "Lord of Caster," is the person mentioned in the text. He was attached to the court of King Henry VIII., and accompanied that monarch to the "field of the cloth of gold." He married Bridget, daughter of Sir Henry Heydon, Knt., of Baconsthorp, in Norfolk, and died at Paston Hall, the original seat of the family, at a great age, in 1554. One of his daughters married Lord Chief Justice Coke.

Sir William Paston was "famous for his great hospitality," and was, as is stated in his epitaph, "pauperibus villæ Yarmouthiæ beneficus."

His grandson, Sir William Paston, High-Sheriff of Norfolk in 1636, was created a Baronet in 1642. Sir Robert Paston, his heir, entertained King Charles II., his Queen, and James, Duke of York, at his seat at Oxnead; and in 1673, was created a Peer by the title of Baron of Paston and Viscount Yarmouth; and in 1679 was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Yarmouth. He was Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and High-Steward of Yarmouth.

He was succeeded in 1682 by his son William, second Earl of Yarmouth, who was also Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and High-Steward of Yarmouth. He survived all his sons, and dying in 1732 without heirs male, his estates were sold, and those in the vicinity of Yarmouth passed into the Anson family, who are still possessed of the Southtown estate.

The Earldom of Yarmouth was revived in 1793, and conferred on the Earl of Hertford as a second title, he at the same time being advanced to the dignity of Marquess of Hertford.

Page 24.—*Meason Dieu.*

An Hospital of ancient foundation at Dover. It was converted into a victualling-office in 1555, and was afterwards purchased by the corporation: it is now used as the common hall and sessions house, underneath which is a spacious prison.

Page 24.—*And much Church goodes.*

"After many consultations and mature deliberations, holden in the year of our Lord 1548, it was lastly concluded that, whereas the church of St. Nicholas, in Yarmouth, was then possessed of some money, a great quantity of plate, and many costly ornaments, (for I read that, in a solemn procession, upon the winning of Bollogne, there were used two and forty of the *best* robes, which sheweth that there were more remaining) and of vestments, tunicks, albes, amyss, and such like furniture, an exceeding number, the same should be sold to make money for that purpose; not much unlike the example of King Henry VIII., (I desire in hope and reverence to speak the truth without offence) who, finding in many religious places, monuments

our forefathers' piety and devotion, intended to the honor of God, and the propagation of the Christian faith and good learning, and for relief of the poor and impotent, (to wit) monasteries, abbies, and priories, to the number of six hundred and forty-five, whereof Cardinal Wolsey, by licence of Pope Clement VII. had suppressed forty; the King, about the year of our Lord 1536, which was in the twenty-eighth year of his reign, did put down three hundred and seventy-six more, being such as might expend £200 per annum. And in the year next following, all the residue, together with the colleges, chauntries, and hospitals were left to his disposal. At which time, the religious houses remaining, being in number six hundred and five, were surveyed, valued, and taxed. Colleges there were (besides those in the Universities) ninety; hospitals, one hundred and ten; chauntries and free chapels, two thousand three hundred and seventy-four. All which, for the most part shortly after, every where were pulled down, their revenues sold and made away, and their goods and riches, which the Christian piety of the English nation had consecrated unto God, since their first professing Christianity (albeit much superstition had crept into them) were in a moiment, as it were, dispersed and demolished, rased and defaced. Wherein, altho' there was not anything done without the providence of the Almighty, who in his justice, as well for the particular sins committed in those places, as in the whole land beside, did permit the same to be ruined as aforesaid, yet great pity it was, and yet is, that the same were converted to no better uses. Wherein I do not alike tax these townsmen of Yarmouth for making sale of those ornaments, which were superstitiously used, since great necessity enforced them thereunto, and the money thereof coming was disposed to good intent and purpose."

"As with the church, the charnel itself, the houses, and other the rents of the same had like censure; the bells in the steeple were not forgotten, neither was the Hospital of the blessed Virgin Mary free from taxation."

"And lastly, the inhabitants of Yarmouth, seeing the necessity of the business, did proffer a free and voluntary offering, and did (as I may speak it to their special commendation) contribute to the work most bountifully; wherein if I should forget the famous city of Norwich, or the Reverend Fathers

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of the Incorporation of Christ Church there, who, like very kind and loving neighbours, did largely remember the business, I were much to be blamed."

*Extracts from the MS. of ManSHIP the younger.*

By "an inventory of church goods in the new vestry," taken on the twelfth of July, 1502, it appears, that there was then "a principal vestment, (*Vestimentum Principale*.) of cloth of gold, viz. a chesapyll, and a cope of one suit, and eleven tuncelys (tunics) of the gift of Sir John Fastolfe, Knight."

Among the "church goods" sold on this occasion were—

Two copes of red satin of Bruges, with a velvet "offeras."

Vestments of white fustian; of green, wrought with birds; of branched silk, and of velvet.

A cope and a vestment of cloth of gold, with the "awbe" and "amess."

Eight copes of black, red, and blue velvet.

Three copes of black velvet with spangles of gold.

A cope of black velvet with bells of gold.

Four stoles and "fannoms."

"Tunicles" of satin and red velvet.

For the benefit of the general reader, it may be explained, that the *cope* was originally a cloak, designed to protect the wearer from the inclemency of the weather, but gradually became a component part of ecclesiastical costume, and partook of the same costliness as distinguished the other vestments, being frequently made of the most valuable materials, elaborately adorned. It was worn at processions and such like ceremonies, but not at the celebration of mass. It was formed without sleeves, and was furnished with a hood, which still continues to be the distinctive badge of academic degrees.

*Offeras* probably means *Orfrey-work*, a sort of embroidery, particularly applicable to the *Alb* or *Aube*, a vestment of white linen, which enveloped the entire person of the priest,

The *Amesa* or *Amice* was an oblong piece of fine linen, worn round the neck, having on one of its lateral edges an embroidered collar. It fell back like a hood, and was fastened in front by bands.

The *Stole* was a long narrow scarf of rich embroidery, with fringed ends, worn above the alb over the shoulders and crossed in front, and hanging on both sides as low as the knees.

*Fannoms* were narrow embroidered scarfs, resembling the stole, but not so long.

The *Tunic* was a robe resembling the alb, but shorter, and open at the sides to the bottom.

These vestments are supposed to have had mystical significations (the stole, for instance, signifying the yoke of Christ, and the fannoms the ropes by which Jesus was bound), and they distinguished the different orders of clergy.

The Corporation or governing municipal body continued to despoil the Church, when they had no longer the plea of "great necessity," for in 1551 they ordered all the sepulchral brasses, of which there were a great number, to be torn from the stones to which they were fixed, and to be delivered to the Bailiffs of the town to be sent to London, there to be cast into weights and measures for the use of the town.

This outrage upon all love for departed worth and the best sympathies of the living (to say no more) was effectually perpetrated, for not a single brass remains, although there are still many slabs showing the moulds wherein the brasses had been embedded in pitch, and fastened down by rivets.

The destruction of these simple, yet rich and beautiful memorials of our ancestors, is much to be regretted, as, if spared, they would have handed down to us the names and armorial bearings of those who flourished at an early period of our history, besides presenting us with a faithful portraiture of the dresses both civil and military of the times in which they were executed, whilst their inscriptions would be valuable as legal evidence in all cases of disputed descent. Many of the beautiful brasses which still remain in our Norfolk churches have become known to the public by the etchings of the late Mr. J. S. Cotman, who was for many years an inhabitant of Yarmouth; and by the recent work on monumental brasses and slabs, by the Rev. Charles Boutell, Rector of Downham Market.

The sacrilegious use of old grave-stones for modern inscriptions has prevailed in this church down to a very recent period, as is stated by

Mr. T. W. King (Rouge Dragon) in his paper *On the Preservation of Monumental Inscriptions*, published in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. 1, p. 135. A glaring instance of this sort of appropriation has, during the recent repairs of the church, been brought to light. In the north chancel a large vestry had been built, over the door of which a stone was inserted in the wall, with the following inscription:—

A° Dni. 1650

THOMAS FELSTEAD

\* \* \* \*

Baylifes

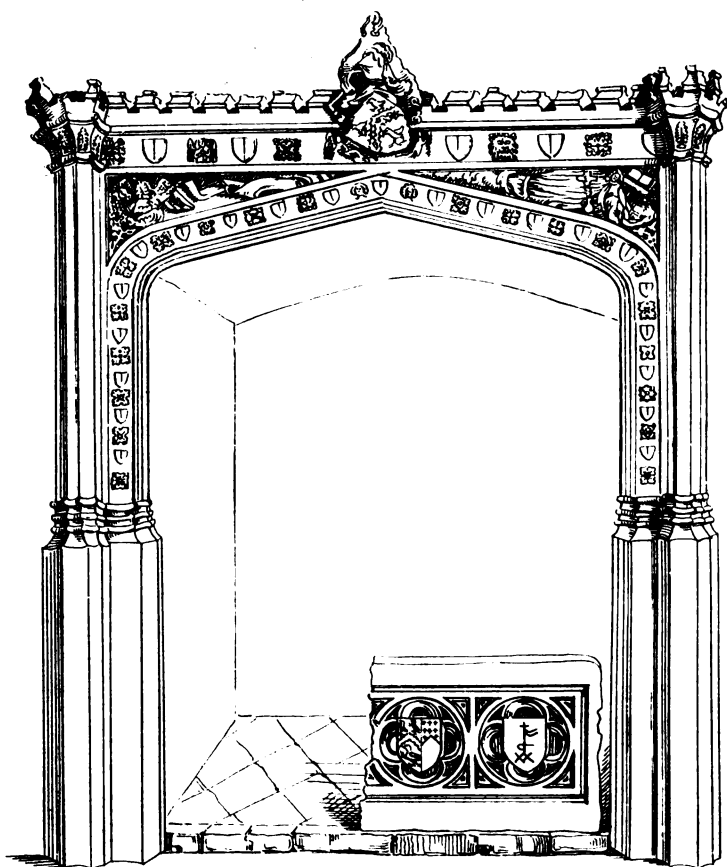
HENRY MOULTON

RICHARD BETTS

Churchwardens.

Upon taking down the vestry and removing this stone, some panel-work and two shields in perfect preservation were found on the back of it; one shield bearing a chevron engrailed between three crows, impaling per chevron in chief, six crosses patée (the latter being the arms of Wilshire); and the other a merchant's mark. This stone, there is every reason to believe, formed part of the tomb to a canopied monument in the style of the latter end of the fifteenth century, in the north chancel chapel, the canopy of which still remains, bearing in the centre a shield charged with a chevron engrailed wavy between three crows, being the arms confirmed and assigned on the twenty-fourth of April, 1494, to Robert Crowmer, who married Joan, daughter of John Wilshire, and was nine times Bailiff of Yarmouth between 1470 and 1497; to whose memory there can be little doubt this monument was erected.

In this opinion, Sir Charles George Young, Garter King at Arms, in an answer to a communication addressed to him by Francis Worship, Esq., fully concurs. Another stone of the same size would exactly fill the vacancy caused by the removal of this tomb, which was done in order to open a doorway through this monument into the churchyard, which doorway continued to be used until 1846, and the stone now found was no doubt purloined when this opening was made and applied to the purpose already mentioned. It is contemplated to restore this stone to its original position, and thus, by a sort of retributive justice, the names of these filchers will be "turned to the wall."



THE CROWMER MONUMENT,  
IN  
St. Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth.

*C. J. Winter, Fecit.*



The mutilation of this tomb was in direct violation of the *Ordinances of Parliament*, made in 1644, for the "demolishing of monuments of idolatry and superstition," which were expressly stated not to extend "to any image, picture, or coat of arms, in glass, stone, or otherwise, set up or graven for a monument of any king, prince, or nobleman, or other dead person," not being reputed a saint.

The will of Robert Crowmer was not proved in the Prerogative Court (where search has been made) nor can it be found in any of the Norwich registries; but there is at Norwich the will of Edmund Crowmer, a Burgess of Yarmouth, proved there in 1520, who bequeathed to John Crowmer his son, "a pryntyd boke of the Cronycles, his sword, and his daggarre;" and "to Master Doctor Gregory" his "boke callyd *Dives et Paup.*"

In the year when the above occurrence took place, the Municipal body, not content with the spoilation of their own parish church, had the effrontery to send a petition to "the Commons of England assembled in Parliament;" in which, after an expression of thankfulness at their having "pulled down the mighty from their seats," and lamenting "the sad condition of the town," these humble and meek men pray, "that you will be pleased to grant us *such a part of the lead and other useful materials of that vast and altogether useless Cathedral, in Norwich*, towards the building of a work-house, to employ our almost starving poor, and repairing our piers *or otherwise*," (for they were not, it appears, at all particular) "as you shall think fit and sufficient."

The name of the other Bailiff chiselled on the above-mentioned stone was William Burton. He was again Bailiff in the year which witnessed the restoration of King Charles II., when his name was ordered to be erased, and the "States' Coat of Arms" to be taken down.

On a stone in the chancel is this inscription:—

Here lieth interr'd the body of WILLIAM BURTON, the elder,  
who was twice Bayliffe of this Towne, and died the  
eighth day of April, 1673, aged 65 years.

He liv'd to Christ; he dy'd in Christ; and must appear with Christ:  
Disturb not then his dust.

There *was* also a stone in the north aisle with a coat of arms and an inscription to the memory of Thomas Felstead, the other Bailiff above-named, which some years since was appropriated by another family with as little ceremony as *he* evinced in despoiling the Crowmer Monument.

Mr. King says he is informed, that several clergymen have adopted the laudable practice of taking "transcripts of the monumental inscriptions in their churches and burial grounds: a practise which, if generally adopted, would tend much to obviate the disastrous consequences to which allusion has been made."

Dawson Turner, Esq., F.S.A., Vice-President of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, is now printing, at his own expence, "A List of Individuals buried in St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth, with the age and the date of the death of each," with some Biographical Notes.

Page 25.—*Trenches and outle a new haven.*

The mounds of earth thrown out in forming this channel, and the channel itself partially filled with water, remained till the year 1815, when there being a great dearth of employment for the labouring poor, a number of men were engaged in levelling the ground and filling up the trench. The course of this channel was near the place where the jaw-bones of a whale now stand, and the spot where the river found an entrance to the ocean can still be traced.

The south gates were taken down in 1812.

Page 25.—*The Rebellion of Kette in Norfolk.*

Manship the younger, in his *Manuscript History*, gives an account of this rebellion, from which the following extracts are taken.

"This rabblement of rude rascals took head at Wymondham, from thence took footing to Hethersett, and so to the Town Close of Norwich, in furious manner casting down all ditches and inclosures; to whom then, Thomas Codd being Mayor of that city, sent commandment to surcease their outrageous demeanour, but they being the so much the more enraged, passed over Hellesdon Bridge, and came to St. Leonard's Hill upon Mousehold, right over against the city. \* \* \* \* These rebels now

raised a powerful army, and the city of Norwich as it were at commandment, ransacked; and ransomed the houses of most of the gentry of this county, commanding or forcibly taking from them whatever they desired for provisions—large eaters for so wide a kitchen I warrant you. They then turned their forces against Yarmouth to bring that unto like subjection, having before that cunningly unawares surprised the two Bailiffs (William Bishop and Simon More) and conveyed them to their camp, from which they afterwards escaping, fortified the town most strongly (as became good subjects) against them, for which their good service they received from Edward Duke of Somerset, the uncle and protector of King Edward VI., and from sundry others the Lords of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, special letters of commendation."

These letters are published in *Swinden's History*, p. 936. One of them has on the superscription "Hast, post hast,—hast, hast, hast,—for thy life—hast—hast."

"The rebels thinking to over-rule here at Yarmouth, as in the rest of the county, directed forth a commission for their necessary provision," but their "commissioners being wholly disobeyed and withstood, these villains bearing special despite against Yarmouth (which of all the towns of this part of Norfolk did violently withstand their forces against it, when all others were enforced to yield to their slavish yoke of tyranny) redoubled their malice and force against it, first on the side of Suffolk, and then of Norfolk; but (praised be God) prevailed in neither, as the sequel shall manifest unto you."

"They being as it were Lords of Lothingland (and yet by usurpation, as the Devil is said to be Lord of the whole world) did think, as the true Lords of Lothingland did long since, to beat down Yarmouth; (yet *they* by lawful proceedings, but *these rebels* by unlawful course) assembled a main hoste, bringing them to the close at the north end of Gorleston, when having gotten six pieces of ordnance from Lowestoft, they bent them against Yarmouth, which the townsmen perceiving, thought it was no time now to delay; and therefore with all good speed and like policy, did think good to encounter them, before they should proceed further to beat upon Yarmouth with their great ordnance; therefore, as prudent men, desirous to take the enemy at



advantage, and not to let slip any occasion of doing some exploit when occasion is offered, yet withal no less careful for the preservation of their townsmen, and as well to retire them as to give the onset too adventurously, the Magistrates of Yarmouth well knowing that, in difficult matters, it is better to execute briefly and quickly, with a little danger, than to be strict and curious in performance, and that in dangerous affairs men must be wise and courageous, foreseeing and knowing as much as they can possibly all dangers, thinking and discoursing, and preparing themselves for all events, did very privately and suddenly send over certain very valiant townsmen, endued with wisdom, fortitude, and discretion, into the marshes next adjoining the haven of Yarmouth, where, by the providence of the Almighty, a great stack of hay was then standing, which these men (the wind being, as God would have it, northerly) did set on fire, which drove the smoke directly upon the face of the enemy, which so blinded them that they could not perceive our men, who with a great troop coming upon them, did, after many bitter blows lent each to other, put them to a total rout; where killing many upon the place, and taking thirty of them prisoners, whom with their six pieces of ordnance they brought to Yarmouth, where, before their departure, they received a reward due for such a piece of service."

"The whole town of Yarmouth rejoicing and giving God thanks for so great a victory, thought they should have rested in quiet; but these rebels, like bears robbed of their whelps, sent out new forces on the side of Norfolk to the very Denes of Yarmouth, to prove if they could speed any better in that climate. But the town's ordnance beating upon them (wherewith, amongst others, with a demi-cannon, shot from the mount at the gates at the market, they slew both horse and rider,) made them to be packing, whom the town in chase pursued as far as their liberties extended (to Caister) not daring, by reason of his Majesty's commandment, to pursue them any further; where, at their return, after praise and thanksgiving to God Almighty, the giver of victory, each neighbour merrily rejoiced and feasted one with another: after that time the rebels durst not attempt any more to make head against them."

The Insurgents were more successful at Norwich; for, having encamped on Mousehold Heath twenty thousand strong, they detained the Mayor of Norwich as a prisoner, and had the city at their mercy.

The Marquis of Northampton was sent against them with a body of horse, and accompanied by Lord Sheffield, Lord Wentworth, Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Sir Thomas Cornwallis, Sir Thomas Paston, and a number of knights and gentlemen, he entered Norwich on the thirty-first of July, Sir Richard Southwell bareheaded, carrying before him the city sword (the sign of the King's authority) which had been previously delivered to him by the deputy Mayor. That same night the rebels attacked the King's troops, and were with difficulty beaten off, leaving three hundred of their men slain in the city. On the following day they renewed their attack, and after killing the Lord Sheffield, "a noble gentleman, of good service, fit for counsel in peace and conduct in war," and "divers other gentlemen and worthy soldiers," near the palace gates, regained possession of the city, and compelled the Marquis and his troops to withdraw. Bedingfeld, Cornwallis, and others, "who remained behind abiding the brunt, being taken prisoners." Alarmed at these proceedings, the King's government ordered the Earl of Warwick (who had then the command of the army which had just been appointed to go into Scotland) to march against the rebels; and being joined by Lords Willoughby and Ferrers, Sir Edmund Knevet, Sir Thomas Palmer, "and many other knights, squires, and gentlemen," who all "tried their manhood and behaved gallantly when time and occasion were given them," the Earl entered Norwich on the twenty-fourth of August, and held it till the twenty-seventh, when he marched out against the rebels. Sir Edmund Knevet and Sir Thomas Palmer were sent to offer them a free pardon, which was refused, and a general engagement ensued on Mousehold Heath, which ended in the total defeat of the rebels, leaving thirty-five hundred of their men dead on the field. About three hundred of the rebels were afterwards publicly executed. Robert and William Kett were committed to the tower of London; and having been arraigned and found guilty, were delivered to Sir Edmund Windham, High Sheriff of Norfolk. Robert Kett was suspended alive in chains at the top of Norwich Castle, where he was left to perish; and William Kett shared the same fate on Wymondham Steeple.

The Earl was much blamed for his *clemency*; but he excused himself by saying, "in the punishment of death, we ought to beware that we do not exceed." Within four years afterwards he himself experienced the bitterness

of a public execution. In 1551 he was advanced to the dignity of Duke of Northumberland; and in the same year was elected High-Steward of Yarmouth. He was attainted and beheaded in 1553, for attempting to place the crown on the head of the Lady Jane Grey.

*Page 26.—Kepe the towne for Queen Marye.*

The princess Mary was at her house at Hoveton, near Norwich, at the time of her brother's death. She immediately removed to her palace of Kenninghall, near East Harling, which had been bestowed upon her by her father, King Henry VIII., on the attainder of the Duke of Norfolk. This stately mansion was erected by the ducal house of Howard, on the site of a royal castle, where the valiant British Queen Boadicea once held her court. Being joined by Sir Henry Jerningham, Sir William Drury, Sir Henry Bedingfeld and many others, the princess Mary proceeded to Framlingham Castle, in Suffolk, where the Bailiffs of Yarmouth tendered their allegiance; and her forces being soon after greatly augmented, she marched thence in triumph to London and took possession of the Tower, when the old Duke of Norfolk and others, on their knees, who were prisoners there, obtained their liberty.

*Page 27.—Erl of Sussex.*

Henry Ratcliffe, second Earl of Sussex. He was Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and resided at Attleborough where his father Robert, the first Earl, had obtained from King Henry VIII. a grant of the College of the Holy Cross, with all its revenues and the chancel of the parish church, which the Earl despoiled; using the marble grave stones to pave his hall and kitchen.

He was made a knight of the bath at the coronation of Queen Anne Boleyn, and in 1544 was appointed a commissioner, with Sir Roger Townshend and others to collect a "Benevolence" in Norfolk. Accompanied by his son Henry, afterwards fourth Earl of Sussex, he was among the first to join Queen Mary at Kenninghall, and for his timely services she made him warden and chief justice of all the forests south of Trent, and created him a knight of the garter.

He died in 1556, and the title became extinct in 1641.

It would be curious to ascertain what were the "diverse matters," and especially the "treasons comitted," which the Earl was sent to Yarmouth to inquire into. Probably the commission and examinations would be found to be still in existence, if the Town-Council would allow their records to be searched.

*Page 27.—There was a great plague.*

Queen Mary died on the seventh of November, 1558, little regretted in Norfolk, where the merciless persecutions carried on in her name had alienated the affections of those loyal men who had exerted themselves to place her on the throne of her ancestors; many persons having been publicly burned to death in Norwich, for adhering to the doctrines of the reformed church.

The plague, which happened in the same year as her death, was very fatal in Yarmouth; Thomas Nicholson, one of the Bailiffs, died of it, and Thomas Hunt was elected in his stead.

*Page 29.—Admiraltye and Admirall Jurisdiction.*

Queen Elizabeth, by her charter, exempted the town, haven, and roads of Great Yarmouth, and also Kirkley road, from the jurisdiction of the Lord High Admiral of England; and empowered the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough to hold a Court of Admiralty of Record, giving them the like authority in all matters (except piracy) as was exercised by the High Court of Admiralty. By this charter, the town became entitled to all wreck of the sea and droits of admiralty; and (says the charter) to "all manner of fishes royal, to wit, sturgeons, baliens, whales, porpusses, dolphins, regals, and grampusses, and all other fishes whatsoever, having in them a great or large thickness or fatness, from ancient time by right or custom to us in the high office of our Admiralty of England appertaining and belonging, or in any manner accustomed."

King James I., by his Charter confirmed this grant, with the additional power of trying piracies, which was soon exercised, for in 1613, five persons "for loading a Flemish ship in the Thames, and feloniously and piratically carrying her away with other goods and loading, at Yarmouth, were there

apprehended, arraigned, and condemned ; but the magistrates, minding at this their first entrance for trial of pirates to temper justice with mercy, did execute *only three of them* ; and having respect to the most penitent and least offenders, being the first capital offence that ever they committed, did reprieve two of them, who since that time have obtained his Majesty's most gracious pardon."

*MS. of Manship the younger.*

The last Admiralty Sessions holden in Yarmouth was in the year 1823, when two seamen were tried and convicted for robbing a ship "upon the high seas," within the jurisdiction of the borough. The Mayor of Norwich, in compliance with the Charter, attended these sessions, which were presided over by Isaac Preston, Esq., as Mayor, and by Robert Alderson, Esq., (father of the Honorable Mr. Baron Alderson) as Recorder. Robert Cory, Esq., Jun., F.S.A. was the last Registrar of the Yarmouth Admiralty Court; and Mr. Christopher Sayers, Mr. Isaac Preston, Jun., Mr. Edmund Reeve Palmer, and Mr. Charles John Palmer, were the last four Proctors.

Page 30.—*Bishop of Norwich.*

John Parkhurst, D.D., was then Bishop of Norwich. He died in the following year.

Page 34.—*Sir Henry Jernegan.*

The "worshipful ancient family of Jernegan, (or in modern orthography Jerningham) knights of high esteem in these parts," as Weever says, in his *Antient Funeral Monuments*, is now represented by Lord Stafford, of Costessey Park, near Norwich. They are said to have been of "exemplarie note before the conquest," and to have held lands in Norfolk and Suffolk at a very early period.

Sir Walter Jernegan, by his marriage with the daughter and co-heiress of Sir Peter Fitz-Osbert, obtained the large possessions of that antient family in the hundred of Lothingland, in the immediate neighbourhood of Yarmouth, including Somerleyton (now the property of S. Morton Peto, Esqre., M.P. for the city of Norwich) which continued to be the chief seat of the family until Queen Mary granted to the above-named Sir Henry Jernegan the manor and park of Costessey, near Norwich, as a reward for his services in

gallantly supporting her right to the crown of these realms, in opposition to the claim set up on behalf of the Lady Jane Grey. This Sir Henry Jerningham was a son of Sir Edward Jerningham, of Somerleyton, by Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Richard, second son of the Lord Scroop, of Bolton. On the demise of King Edward VI. he proclaimed Queen Mary at Norwich; and then proceeded at the head of his tenants and retainers to meet her majesty at Kenninghall, and afterwards at Framlingham Castle, where she was also joined by Sir Henry Bedingsfeld and other knights of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Holingshead, in his *Chronicle*, says, "about this time, six ships that were appointed to lie before Yarmouth, and to have taken the *Ladie Marie* if she had fled that way, were, by force of weather, driven into the haven, where Maister Jerningham was raising power on the *Ladie Marie's* behalf, who hearing thereof came thither, whereupon the captains took a boat and went to their ships; but the sailors and soldiers asked Maister Jerningham what he would have? whether he would have their captains or no? and he said yea. Marrie, said they, ye shall have them, or we throwe them into the bottom of the sea. But the captains said forthwith that they would serve Queen Mary willingly, and so brought forth their men and conveyed with them the great ordnance." This occurrence, says the worthy chronicler, made "the *Ladie Marie* wonderfully joyous."

The influence of Sir Henry Jernegan probably induced the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, at this critical period, to tender their allegiance to Queen Mary at Framlingham, as mentioned in the text, p. 26.

For these eminent services, Sir Henry Jerningham was appointed Master of the Horse, Captain of the Queen's Guard, and Keeper of the Royal Palace at Eltham, where he resided during the building of the hall at Costessey, which is now to give place to the magnificent structure commenced by the present Lord.

Sir Henry entertained Queen Elizabeth at Costessey, in her "progress" into Norfolk; but his attachment to the Roman Catholic form of Christian faith (in which he is followed by his descendants) excluded him from any employment under the crown in that reign. He died in 1572. For a further account of this antient family see *Gillingwater's Historical Account of*

*Lowestoft, and Druery's Historical and Topographical Notices of Great Yarmouth and its environs*, published in 1826; and see also a pedigree published in the *Rev. Alfred Suckling's History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk*.

Sir Walter Scott having, in his novel of *Peverel of the Peak*, given the name of Jerningham to a valet of the Duke of Buckingham, received a letter of remonstrance, which, with some apologetic remarks, he published in the edition of 1831. See vol. 29, p. 309. The writer, who is believed to be the Dowager Lady Bedingfeld, tells the great Novelist, that "as adherents to King Harry's eldest daughter, as true subjects to her successors, as faithful followers of the unfortunate Charles and his posterity, and as loyal and attached servants of the present royal stock, the name of *Jerningham* has ever remained unsullied in honor, and uncontaminated in aught unfitting its knightly origin."

Page 34.—*Sir Christopher Heydon.*

He was grandson and heir of Sir John Heydon, of Bacon's Thorpe, in Norfolk, who was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of King Henry VIII., and died in 1550. Sir Christopher was held in great esteem for his many excellent qualities, and particularly for his justice, charity, and remarkable hospitality, equal to his ample estate; on succeeding to which, he is said to have entertained thirty master shepherds of his own flocks, at a Christmas dinner. He was knighted at the sacking of Cadiz, served the office of High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, in 1556 and 1569, (for prior to 1574 there was but one Sheriff for the two counties,) and died in 1577.

Page 35.—*Cinque Ports.*

From a very early period, the Barons of the Cinque Ports exercised a concurrent jurisdiction with the Bailiffs of the Borough in the administration of "Royal Justice" at Great Yarmouth, during the annual herring fishery, which continued from Michaelmas to Martinmas. For this purpose, the Barons of the Cinque Ports deputed one or two persons from each member (Hastings, Dover, Hith, Romney, and Sandwich) and from the ancient towns of Rye and Winchelsea, at a Brotherhood usually holden at Ramsey,

and the persons so deputed were called "the Bailiffs of the Barons of the Cinque Ports to Yarmouth." As Yarmouth was at that time the great mart of the fisheries, and was resorted to by the fishermen of distant ports, as well as by foreigners, this singular co-jurisdiction was probably established for the purpose of securing impartiality, the Bailiffs of Yarmouth being often, it is reasonable to suppose, personally interested in the matters to be decided.

The Barons of the Cinque Ports attached great importance to this privilege. Their Bailiffs came in state, attended by their clerk, (who was usually the Town Clerk of Dover) a "Serjeant at Banner," a Serjeant "to wind the brasen horn for syllence," and "two Serjeants at Rodd;" and on their return, they were required to make a "Relation" of all that took place during the holding of the Free Fair, minutely recording the ceremonies, judicial forms, and hospitalities observed, somewhat in the same way as every Venetian Ambassador was required to send a report to the Senate, on his return from a foreign mission. See the "*Relation*" of the Venetian Ambassador to England, in 1500, published by the Camden Society. These "*Relations*," (some of which are preserved, and it is hoped will shortly be published) throw light upon the habits of society at an early period..

By one of these "Municipal Records," which, by the kindness of a much esteemed friend, has lately come under the notice of the Editor, it appears that the Bailiffs of the Cinque Ports, on the particular occasion related, "lodged at Laystoff, and there dyned" on the twenty-seventh of September, and on the following day came to Yarmouth, where at the bridge "manye people being there assembled," they were "very kindly" welcomed, and shortly afterwards were formally "entreated" to dine with the elder Bailiff elect, of Yarmouth, on the next day, which invitation they "thankfully accepted," as also to sup "the said next daie" with the other Bailiff elect. On the twenty-ninth day of September (being the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, upon which day the Bailiffs of Yarmouth were sworn into office having been elected on the day of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist;) the Cinque-Port Bailiffs went to church, where they were invited to sit "next unto the said Bailiffes," and were by them and their brethren "kindly saluted." After church, they proceeded to the Toll-house, where one of the Cinque Port Bailiffs delivered "certen speeches unto the Bayliffes of



Yarmouth," touching the prerogatives of the Barons of the Cinque Ports, which being replied to, they took their places on the right-hand of the Bayliffes of Yarmouth. Then they demanded to "vewe the prysoners in the gaole, and to examine the cause of their commitment," which was done, one being found convicted of felony, and another "suspected of *witchcraft*." They then required to see the prisoners detained for debt; but this the Yarmouth Bailiffs would not permit, although they "awouched precedents," so they contented themselves with desiring the goaler "to take especiall care for the safe kepinge of the prysoners, w<sup>h</sup> he promised."

The official business being finished, they "went directly from thence" to Mr. Bailiff's house to dinner, where they were "feasted and kindly entertayned," and that night they supped with the other Bailiff, where they had "like kinde entertainment."

"Upon the next day being Sondaie," they again went to church; and "after sermon ended," their officers being in readiness near the church, on horseback; "the brazen horne being three tymes sounded, and sylence com-aunded," proclamation was made. Thence the "said officers imediately did ride unto the Market Cross, from thence unto the Haven's Mouth, then at the Crane, and lastly at the Bridge Foot, where proclamation was also made."

When the Bailiffs jointly held their first court, the Cinque-Port Bailiffs again demanded to see the prisoners for debt, but no persuasion would avail; and as they say, "we cold not obtayne it by compulsion." They pressed this demand at subsequent courts, but the Bailiffs of Yarmouth "resolutely denied that wee should take any notice or view of any other prysoners than such as were there comitted upon plea of the crowne;" and it seems to be very doubtful whether the Cinque-Port Bailiffs had any right to see such prisoners, or indeed any jurisdiction over offences committed before their coming to the town.

The "Relation" details the several cases which were from time to time brought before them and their co-bailiffs, which principally relate to "breaking of heads" and disputes among fishermen. They dispensed somewhat summary justice; for they state, that a sailor having been apprehended and committed to prison "for stealinge a certen old cassock," which "uppon his examynacon he confessed, he was, for so stealing the same, here before us

*well whipped.*" They were also rather arbitrary; for upon another occasion the examination of a vagrant and his wife was postponed, "for that it was very suspicious they never were lawfully married:" and upon the next examination, the man having confessed to a petty theft, they state that he "was openly before us well whipped; and being urged to confess trulie whether the said Jane was his lawful wife or not, he *would not by any meanes confesse the contrary*; and the s<sup>d</sup> Jane beinge brought to the barre *redy to be whipped*, would not otherwise confesse but that shee was *lawfully married* to him;" notwithstanding which obstinacy, these merciful judges, "in respect of her weaknes, and havinge a yonge child suckinge, directed her punishment to be remitted."

Some of those who smile at these proceedings may be surprised to learn, that the practice of whipping females was not abolished till the reign of King George iv.

The Cinque Port Bailiffs also assisted in taking the assize of bread, and "went into the market to examyne the prices of victualls, and to enquire if any misdemeanors were there comitted." They were presented by the Yarmouth Bailiffs with "the head of a porpose" (which was esteemed a great delicacy by our ancestors) and with "a fatt swanne," both of which they "thankfully accepted."

Being intent upon sustaining their dignity, they were alarmed at hearing oysters cried without their consent, whereupon, say the Bailiffs, "we reprehended the towne-crier, and sent to the party that made sale thereof, that he might not lawfully doe yt without our consent, who, thereupon," they add with amusing *naivete*, "sent to us a peck of the said oysters *for a taste*, and prayed our allowance to sell the residue, to which wee assented." On the next day, application was made to them by another fisherman for leave to sell oysters; but he saved nothing by so doing, for they required him "before he made sale to send some part thereof for a taste."

On the sixteenth of October, they gave a return dinner to "the Baliffes of Yarmouth and the greatest part of the xxiiij ties (aldermen) and their wieves, with diverse others, to the number of fifty persons." Two days later the Cinque Bailiffs say, that they provided "such cheere as conveniently wee could for breakfast fitt for the daie, and about viij of the clock the Bayliffes of

Yarmouth sent unto us some wine, and afterwards come unto us and did break their fast with us; and there was also then with us certen of the xxiiij ties of the same towne and others; and after breakfast ended, the said Bayliffes and others did very kindly take their leave of us, and wee took our leave at or neare our said lodginge."

Thus this visit ended very amicably, which was not always the case. In the reign of Edward I., one of the Bailiffs of the Cinque Ports "doing his office at Yarmouth," was by one of the Bailiffs of Yarmouth killed, "for which he as deservedly was hanged." In later times "many controversies arose about the government of the free fayer," not omitting the delicate question of precedence. Thus, on one occasion, when, "for fashion sake," the Yarmouth Bailiffs took the Cinque Port Bailiffs by the hand in court, and desired them to sit "more near to their cloth of the King's arms; yet," say the Cinque Port Bailiffs, "they were seated before our comyng, and no speech or persuasion would make them remove; so," add the unfortunate Bailiffs, "we were constrayned for that tyme to content ourselves to sit under that small peece of their cloth that they wold afford us." At another time, the Yarmouth Bailiffs placed themselves so near to the cloth and bar, that the "puney Bailiff" sat in the "best place, even right under his Majesty's Arms;" and upon another occasion, when the Cinque-Port Bailiffs were "pressing for the upper hand," personal violence ensued.

Their manœuvres about precedency are very amusing. Upon one occasion they state that, "in the morninge, being Sunday, wee went to church about the usual houre, and took our places next unto the Bailiffs of Yarmouth; and after the sermon, the said Bayliffes of Yarmouth, after their accustomed manner, pressed out of church before us; and being attended by our twee serjeants carrying their white rods before us, wee came to the usual place upon the green without the church gate, where our first proclamation is commonly made, and at our comyng thither, wee found our clerk on horseback, together with other Serjeants at Banner and Brazen Horne, and wee pressed neare them, intending to take place that of right belongeth unto us, (viz.) to stand on the right-hand of the said Bailiffs of Yarmouth; and altho' the aldermen of the saide towne stood decently together upon the causeway leading from the said church, yet the said two Bailiffs of Yarmouth traversed

that ground in a very unseemly manner, to putt us on the *left* hand of them, and after much removing by them, at last, our said clerk and other officers so bestirred themselves on horseback, that we got the upper hand of them (*viz*) we were *opposite* agaynst them with our faces towards the towne, and they directly with their faces towards the church, and our officers on horseback next unto us; and during the tyme of the proclamation, one of the Yarmouth Bailiffs, for most part, layd his hand uppon the hinder part of the back of our said clerk his gelding;" and when these Bailiffs left the town, this Yarmouth Bailiff took his leave of them "after his accustomed prowde manner."

The behaviour of the Cinque-Port Bailiffs was not always blameless; for it appears that, in 1642, Mr. Daniel Lucas, one of these Bailiffs "violently and in a great rage" pulled up, and broke in pieces a written board or table affixed to the wall over the bench where the Bailiffs used to sit, which board had remained there "beyond the memory of any man living."

After these annual visits had continued for a period of about five centuries, the Cinque Ports fell into decay; and in 1639 they prayed his Majesty and the Privy Council, that "the Ports and Townes be discharged of the great charge and *fruitless service* of the Bayliffs to Great Yarmouth." These visits, however, continued until 1662, when they finally ceased.

Page 36.—*Hardley Cross.*

This Cross denotes the place where the jurisdiction of Yarmouth ceases on the Yare or Wensum, and that of Nerwich commences.

Blomefield says, "and this year (1543) there was a New Cross, with a crucifix carved on one side, and the city arms on the other, painted and carried to Hardley, and there set up in the presence of the Sheriffs, in the place where 'the Shrevys of Norwyche yerely do kepe a court.'"

A new cross has within the last few years been erected on the site of the old one.

Page 36.—*St. Olave's Bridge,*

Over the river Waveney, connecting the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and the point to which the jurisdiction of Yarmouth by water extends in that direction.

There was formerly an antient ferry here, near which Roger Fitz-Osbert, of Somerleyton, who flourished in the reign of King John, and died in 1239, erected a priory for a community of Austin Canons, to which the church of the neighbouring parish of Heringfleet (or Herlyngflete) was appropriated.

Roger de Haddesco, Prior of St. Olave's, in 1370 erected a richly ornamented rood-loft in St. Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth, and built a chapel at the east end of that church, and dedicated it to our Lady of Arneburgh, and in the north side thereof was erected "a fine organ." This chapel was standing in 1545.

The Jerninghams of Somerleyton, who succeeded the family of Fitz-Osbert, held lands here as early as the year 1230. Sir John Jernegan, in 1474, was buried in the chapel of St. Mary, belonging to the priory, where Agnes his wife and many of his progenitors had been interred.

At the dissolution, this Priory was granted to the Jerninghams; the ruined buildings were taken down in 1784, and some fragments with a low arched vault or crypt alone remain. The site is now the property of John Francis Leathes, Esq., of Heringfleet Hall.

The first bridge erected here was built in the reign of King Henry VII. by Sir James Hobart, the celebrated judge, who resided at Hales Hall in Loddon, where he built the fine Parish Church.

This bridge has lately been frequently brought into public notice, in consequence of the various projects for carrying a line of railway across the Waveney, near this spot. It is now pulled down for the purpose of erecting a new bridge on the site, towards the expense of which the Commissioners for the Haven of Great Yarmouth have contributed.

#### Page 36.—*Weybridge.*

A bridge which connects the hundred of Walsham with West Flegg, and to which point the jurisdiction of Yarmouth up the river Bure extends.

Near this bridge was a priory, founded and endowed by Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, John Palmer, and others, for Canons of the Order of St. Austin: on or near the site there is now a public-house called *The Hermitage*, belonging to Sir E. H. K. Lacon, Bart.

During Kett's Rebellion in 1549, a pinnacle was sent to Weybridge from Yarmouth, victualled for four days, having twenty-six men in her.

Page 36.—*Mr. Paston.*

Clement Paston, Esqre., "fourth son of old Sir William Paston, knight," mentioned in a former note, was, according to his epitaph in Oxnead church, both "fortunate and wise." He entered when a boy into the Royal Navy in the reign of King Henry VIII., and having attained the rank of captain, was successful in an action with the French, in which he took their admiral, the Baron de St. Blancaire, prisoner, and detained him at Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, until he was ransomed. In the reign of Queen Mary, he was appointed to receive the surrender of Sir Thomas Wyatt; and in the following reign, he held the command of the English fleet destined for Havre. He was called by King Henry VIII. his champion; by the Protector Somerset, his soldier; by Queen Mary, her seaman; and by Queen Elizabeth, her father.

In the latter years of his life he erected a splendid mansion at Oxnead, in Norfolk, which from that time became the principal seat of the family.

He served the office of High Sheriff of Norfolk, in 1587, and died without issue in 1599, leaving Sir William Paston his nephew and heir, to whom he gave his "collar of gold with the snakes," and his "standing bowle, called Baron de Blancaire." Sir William removed to the new-built mansion of Oxnead; and Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, his former residence, was abandoned and fell to ruin.

The Pastons were one of the very few families who, before being ennobled, had *supporters* to their arms, as appears by a framed panel, containing the arms of this family, still hanging in Yarmouth church, in memory of benefactions conferred.

A pedigree of the family of Paston, extracted from the *Paston Letters*, is published in Mr. Dawson Turner's *History of Caister Castle*.

Page 36.—*Certen ele settes.*

In the three rivers meeting and flowing into the sea at Great Yarmouth, namely, the Yare, the Waveney, and the Bure, there were thirty-eight "setts" or stations for fishermen, which were yearly, "on Monday next after St. Barnaby," granted by the Bailiffs of Yarmouth to several fishermen, to be used during the following year, on paying the nominal rent of one penny.

In 1576, Queen Elizabeth sent a letter to her "trustie and wellbeloved Baylifes" of Yarmouth, informing them, that her "wellbeloved servant, John Everist, one of the ordynarye Yeomen of her chamber," who, on the recommendation of the Queen and Lord Burleigh, had been appointed Water Bailiff in the preceding year, was desirous of hiring "the seid fishinge places or settes" at a rental of thirty pounds a-year, he promising that the market should for the future be better served with "all soch fishe as usually are tacon in the seid settes;" wherefore the Queen, "consideringe the reasonablenes of his sute, and the honestye of the man," required the Bailiffs to grant him "a good and sufficient lease;" and promising, if they did so, not to forget the Bailiffs "in any reasonable sute" to be made by them.

The Bailiffs, "according to their speciall dutie," complied and granted the lease, but soon got into trouble; for Mr. Clement Paston and Mr. Win. Paston, who were then the great owners of the adjoining lands and marshes, "anymated the fishermen of the fresh ryvers" to resist, whereby the Bailiffs "could not quyetlie injoye their owne;" and the Justices of Assize, "having no leisure" to end the dispute, as was "the desier and sute of all parties," and Mr. Paston continuing the "disturbance" to the "greate hynderance of the said towne, and to the manyfeste and contemptuous impechement" of her Majesty's gracious purpose, the Bailiffs being like wise men "lothe to be inforced to spend in sutes that poore substance which they daylie must spend about their haven," petitioned the Queen to command Mr. Paston to appear before the Privy Council, to answer for his conduct.

Mr. Paston, in his defence, alleged that the fishermen frequenting these rivers had "an onlye custome among them, used tyme out of mynd, that yerlie, on the day of S. Margaret, every fysherman that could that daye, after rysenge, first come to anye of the said ele settes in anye of the said ryvers, and there stayed and pytche a bowghe at the said ele sett, the same fysherman should have and injoye the same ele sett that yere, without yealdinge or payenge anye thinge for the same;" but that contentions having arisen among the fishermen as to "gettinge of the best else settes," it had been decided by the Justices of Assize, upon suit made to them by the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, that for the sake of "good reule and order," the fishermen should yearly "resorte to the Towne of Greate Yarmouth, and there

payenge to the Bailies for the tyme beinge onne peny for recordinge the name of the fysherman, and the else sett, the saide fysherman should so enjoye the same sett without further troble." That the Bailiffs had "latelis devysed to procuer unto themselves a greate yerelie renewe of the same ele settas; and the better to gett unto themselves an intereste to the said ele settas againste all righte and lawe, and to take awaye the whole lyvenge of the poor fyshermen," had "practised" with the said John Everest to obtain her Majesty's letter, under the pretence of obeying which, the better to "wynne and gette unto themselves this greate yearlie rente," thinking that the poor fishermen "woulde not withstand the same," although they had "about a yere paste exhibited a bill of complaynt to the Honorable the Lorde Keper againste the saide Baylies, concerninge such injuries and wrongs as had been offered by the said Balyfes against them." That they and other gentlemen, "having growndes nexte adjoining to the saide ryvers," had taken the part of the fishermen, "by whose continuall industrye and travell the citie of Norwiche and the countye of Norf. and Suff. had bene plentiffullie provided in their kyndes of fyshe in the comon marketts, and for reasonable pryces;" and denying the allegations of the Bailiffs, which they said did "tuche them verye nyghe both in dutie and obedience, a matter very grevous unto them," beseeched her Majesty to refer the question to the Court of Chancery.

The great seal was then held by Sir Nicholas Bacon, who died in February, 1579.

It does not appear that the right of the Bailiffs to grant the disputed lease was sustained, although their "conservancy" of these rivers for the space of ten miles upwards was established.

The custom of collecting the pence of the fishermen was disused, and the rivers are now free to any fishermen using lawful nets.

"Eel sets" are nets stretched across the rivers in autumn, when the sharp-nosed eels (*anguilla acutirostris*) which abound in them are caught in great numbers, all travelling towards the sea. Those taken upon Braydon water are more esteemed for the table than fresh-water eels, and the fish abound there.

Manahip the younger says, that in his time, in order that "the liberties of the town might be better preserved," the Bailiffs and Corporation, with the



inquest of the liberties and many of the gentlemen and inhabitants of the town, proceeded annually up these rivers in boats, "with drums, French horns, fifes, and other musical instruments, flags and a variety of colours displayed, making a fine appearance;" and after reading the proclamation against unlawful practices, "that dinner," says Manship the younger, "which their kind wives in most bountiful sort had provided, is then prepared to set before them, where in their boats, after thanks given to God for enjoying their liberties, they enjoy the society of their friends; each Bailiff on his return meeting the other where they last parted asunder, and so passing together do, with great applause of the people and shooting of ordnance, set foot on land again at Yarmouth; each Bailiff taking his company with him, where, if any cheer upon the water in their boats were wanting at dinner, the same at landing at their houses be largely supplied at supper."

This public parade, says Swinden, at last became so expensive, and was so often attended with fatal accidents, that in the year 1748 it was discontinued, the inquest of the liberties going up with a few friends only in a private manner. It was revived some years afterwards and continued until 1793, when (in the Mayoralty of Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart.) a fatal accident happened to one of the guests on board "the Mayor's barge" by the falling of the boat's gaff; and it was again discontinued until 1816, when it was re-established by Robert Cory, Junr., Esqre., F.S.A., and under the name of "the water frolic," has continued to the present time; but much of the ancient pageantry has passed away.

Page 39.—*That arme of the sea was verry lardge.*

A writer in a recent number of *Howitt's Journal* gives the following concise description.

"The rivers of Norfolk that fall by one mouth into the German ocean, if not so widely known as the larger navigable streams of England, are remarkable as flowing through valleys formed by a once extensive estuary; interesting from its historical relation to Roman and Scandinavian history.

"Geologists differ as to the drainage of this estuary. Some account for it, by a theory, that the level of all oceans gradually sinks; but the effects of the tidal current of the German ocean affords a simple explanation: this flows north-east and south-west; and has, through a series of ages,

worn away these friable eastern shores, ingulphing forests, villages, and towns, yet depositing the *debris* of chalk and sand wherever an opening or an eddy offered. Thus, the once rough ocean estuary has been changed into a series of verdant marshes of alluvial soil over marine deposit; beneath which lies a portion of the great chalk formation of Europe."

"The northernmost opening of this estuary was first blocked up by sand, the southern much more recently; and as early as domesday, the middle and widest channel became gradually filled by a reef of sand, which joined in progress of time to the main land, and left only a narrow opening, through which now flow the united waters of these rivers (the Yare, the Waveney, and the Bure) and form the haven of Yarmouth."

"This extent of coast was known to the Romans by the title of the Saxon shore; and a strong body of legionaries was stationed at various places along its extent to guard it from the inroads of our northern ancestors."

"These rivers are now deep quiet streams, wonderfully rich with pastoral landscapes, worthy as well as suited to the pencil of a Hobbina."

*See Stark's Scenery of the Rivers of Norfolk.*

Page 40.—(Note.)—*To prove this to be true, &c.*

"In the marshes which lie between the two shores, and even at the walls of Garianonum, have frequently been discovered parts of anchors, rings, and other pieces of iron, which, however uncouth in their appearance, could have been of no service but for maritime uses; and must either have belonged to the vessels of the garrison, or have been left there by those unfortunate navigators, who in early times visited this dangerous coast."

*Ives' Remarks upon the Garianonum of the Romans, p. 9.*

Page 41.—*Bewcliffes (Beccles.)*

"There is no subject more pleasing to the thoughtful mind than a contemplation of the changes wrought by time on the face of nature—and few places present a more ample field for such retrospective meditation, than the site of Beccles. The spectator beholds, from the bold promontory on which it stands, a wide and fertile valley smiling beneath the industry of man—he sees churches, villages, and mansions thickly studded along its wooded

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banks, and a winding silvery stream, bearing on its bosom the peaceful sail of commerce. Here and there appears the silken pennon of the pleasure-boat fluttering on the breeze, or the patient angler pursuing his 'contemplative recreation.' A spacious church, encircled by a thriving, well-built town, bounds the nearer view, and completes the picture of the present day. In remoter ages how different was the scene. Then this tranquil valley lay buried beneath a broad impetuous arm of the sea, whose mighty tides bore along the hostile bark of the ruthless Dane, intent on violence and plunder. The Christian Temple, the *Beata Ecclesia*, which has since given name to the spot, was then unbuilt—but a rude and lofty watch-tower occupied the site; which commanding a seaward view of the turbulent estuary, blazed forth the fearful notice of invasion to a beacon placed on the peninsular at Bungay. This in turn, communicated with a third at Homersfield; and thus the intelligence was speedily passed along the Valley of the Waveney, and into the heart of East-Anglia."

*Suckling's History and Antiquities of Suffolk, vol. 1, p. 1.*

Page 41.—*Wroxham,*

Is a village, six miles north-east of Norwich, standing on the south bank of the river Bure, which here forms one of those "Broads" for which this county is celebrated: the word "Broad" signifying an expanse of water, being entirely provincial. They are of all dimensions, from the inconsiderable pool to the wide-spreading lake. Hickling Broad covers more than four hundred acres, but pre-eminent over all is Breydon water, close to the town of Great Yarmouth. These waters afford the last strongholds for those now rare aquatic birds which once abounded in this county.

See *Lubbock's Observations on the Fauna of Norfolk.*

Page 41.—*Horning and St. Bennet's.*

*Horning* is nine miles north-east of Norwich, and at the survey was found to be part of the possessions of the Abbot of *St. Bennet's at "Holm."* This latter word, being an Anglo-Saxon term signifying an island, affords a further proof that the surrounding lowlands must at one period have been covered with water. A chapel, dedicated to St. Bennet, was built here about

the year 800, which was destroyed in the general devastation of this county by the Danes, in 870. King Canute founded and endowed an Abbey of Benedictine monks here before 1020. It was fortified and held by the monks against the Conqueror, until one of the brethren admitted the enemy on condition of his being made *Abbot*. This was done; but he was hanged immediately afterwards—"a meet guerdon for such a piece of service." S. Bennet's at Holm was a mitred abbey; the Abbot having a seat in the House of Lords. King Henry VIII. united it to the Bishoprick of Norwich, taking in exchange the estates then belonging to that See, greatly to the pecuniary detriment of the Bishoprick; since which time, the Bishop of Norwich has been the only Abbot in England, and has a double title to his seat in Parliament. The remains of this once stately abbey stand in the midst of a level marsh; and consist of the chapel converted into a barn, and part of a magnificent gateway upon which a drainage-mill is erected. Sir John Fastolf, &c., and many distinguished persons were buried within the precincts of this abbey.

Page 44.—*Newton Cross.*

Some centuries since there was on the east side of Corton a parish called Newton, of which scarcely any vestige remains except a stone, which supported a cross denominated Newton Cross, and a small piece of ground known as Newton Green, every other part of the parish having been swallowed by the sea, which has made considerable encroachments along the Suffolk coast: the antient Burgh of Dunwich, once the chief town in East Anglia and the seat of the Bishoprick (*see p. 50*), having been entirely swept away.

Page 45.—*L. Clinton.*

Edward de Clinton, ninth Baron Clinton, attained to great eminence as a naval officer in the reign of King Henry VIII., who constituted him Lord High Admiral in 1550, and in the following year he was installed a Knight of the Garter. Queen Elizabeth upon her accession confirmed him in the office of Lord High Admiral, and in 1572 created him Earl of Lincoln. He died in 1584. He was the ancestor of the present Duke of Newcastle, who is eleventh Earl of Lincoln.

Page 45.—*Sir William Woodhouse.*

Sir William Woodhouse, of Waxham in Norfolk. He represented the borough of Great Yarmouth in Parliament, in 1547, and again in 1553. He was one of those "worshipfull friendes" mentioned in the text, p. 29, who were consulted by the inhabitants in their distress respecting the haven; and he seems to have rendered them some service at Court, for by his procurement, the Privy Council sent down Mr. Andrain Harrison to survey and make a report on the state of the harbour, with a view to its improvement; and Sir William also conferred with an engineer from Emden, "a very experte man in sea works, whom I thynke," says he in a letter to the Bailiffs, "the Quene wyll entertayne." This engineer came to Yarmouth, but it does not appear that he undertook any works. He was Vice-Admiral of Norfolk, and his son, Sir Henry Woodhouse, had a suit in the Court of Chancery against the town, in the reign of King James I., respecting the Admiralty jurisdiction.

Page 46.—*Greatlie flourished in the buildinge there houses.*

Manship the younger, thus speaks of the buildings in Great Yarmouth, in his time.

"The magnificency and sumptuous building thereof, the eye-beholder can better witness the truth of the same than either my pen can enforce to believe by reading thereof, or my tongue by uttering of speech can deliver unto any. The very sight whereof caused that thrice renowned, and of Europe the grave and wise counsellor, William, LORD BURLEIGH, Lord High Treasurer of England, and Robert, EARL OF LEICESTER, in the year of our Lord, 1578, at such time as Queen Elizabeth of happy memory came in progress to Norwich, and themselves and many others of the nobles to Yarmouth where they were most worthily entertained in martial manner, and at the PRIORY at the town's charges royally feasted, and in like manner by the principal merchants of Yarmouth attended, *in my hearing*, highly to commend the stately uniform buildings then in it, which since that time praised be God is more than redoubled."

Manship might have bestowed his praise with greater truth upon the noble QUAY, at Yarmouth, which Swinden describes as one of the finest,

largest, and longest in Europe; and which continues to be the admiration of all strangers visiting the town.

There yet remain, however, some good houses, as old as the period when Manship wrote, containing very perfect examples of the wainscot paneling, decorative carvings and pendant ceilings, peculiar to the time of Queen Elizabeth; particularly one on the South Quay, belonging to George Danby Palmer, Esq., and another on the Hall Plain (now the Star Hotel) formerly the property of the Bradshaw family: as also the House belonging to the Editor which is elsewhere alluded to.

The house on the South Quay, which belongs to John Preston, Esqre., is of a somewhat later period, and is almost the only one which retains, in a perfect state, its original front of cut flint work, with dressings and curious chamber porch.

The only half-timbered houses remaining are in the George and Dragon Row, on the Church Plain.

The modernized front of a public-house on the South Quay, called "the Ballast Keel," belonging to the Messrs. Steward and Co., still retains the tapestry irons and merchant's mark, which adorned the original front. An arch under part of this house, and over the adjoining row, is of the fourteenth century; and in a tenement at the back, there is a rich plaster ceiling of the time of James I.

But the great peculiarity of Yarmouth, as regards its style of building, consists in the number of extremely narrow streets or alleys, locally called "Rows," amounting to one hundred and fifty-six, which all run in one direction, and until the opening of Regent-street, in 1813, afforded the only means of access from east to west, within the walls, from one extremity of the town to the other.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and for nearly two centuries later, the waste ground, locally called the "*Denes*," lying between the town-wall and the sea, was only occupied by rope-makers, whose "walks" are still to be seen, although their business has been greatly diminished by the introduction of chain cables. This large space is now nearly covered with houses, some of them of a superior class; and the Town Council, aided by

the Commissioners for Paving, &c., have done all in their power to rectify former errors, by compelling the adoption of a prescribed plan. Good roads have been made in all directions, much to the convenience and advantage of the inhabitants, so that we may also in our time truly aver, that "the said towne, in thes fourtie years, has greatlie flourished in the buildenge there houses."

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## Appendix.

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### HAVEN EXPENCES.

Appended to the manuscript there is written in a different hand :

*" A breife of y<sup>e</sup> coste and charges disbursed aboute the old and newe Haven, ab anno dñi 1548, usq. mensem martij, anno 1613."*

THIS appears to have been copied or compiled from an old book, called "the Haven Book," commencing with the year 1567; a similar account is printed in *Swinden's History of Yarmouth*, p. 413.

It is shown by this account, that, for the preservation of a harbour which was of vital importance to the town, the sum expended during these sixty-seven years amounted to £49,732. 17s. 8d.; to raise which, the inhabitants were compelled to resort to the most extraordinary means, such as the remission of customs duties and taxes, the sale of church goods, loans, contributions, the sale of licences, &c.

After making every allowance for the difference in value of money, what a contrast is exhibited at the present day, when a few private individuals, as a matter of mere mercantile speculation, can raise and expend upwards of four times the amount, in less than half as many months, in constructing another harbour within the distance of ten miles.



The present ordinary income of the Commissioners for Yarmouth Haven exceeds £10,000. a-year.

Another striking contrast also presents itself:

Manship the younger, in his manuscript written in 1619, whilst describing the river Waveney, states that, springing "from a marsh ground of Lophamford, it taketh its course by diverse ways," and passing "by Bungay and Beccles, two market towns in Suffolk, it draweth nearer to the sea, and striveth to make a two-fold issue into it; the one near Lowestoft, by the *meer Luthing*, but prevaieth not, although the Lowestoftians, not long since, (a bold and mighty attempt) assayed to make the excursion accordingly, *for which many of them were by his Majesty's Justices worthily punished.*"

A similar "bold attempt" for making a Harbour at Lowestoft, with a communication for sea-borne vessels to the City of Norwich, was sanctioned by the Legislature in 1827, notwithstanding the most strenuous opposition on the part of Yarmouth. In 1845 an Act of Parliament was obtained for making a new Harbour at Lowestoft, and connecting the same with the City of Norwich by a railway, thereby creating a most formidable competition with the trade of Yarmouth, without any opposition having been offered to the measure on the part of the latter town.

#### FAMILY OF AMES.

In the manuscript now published, was found the following autograph letter from Mr. Joseph Ames to the Rev. Francis Blomefield, who then was engaged in collecting materials for his *History of Norfolk*:—

GOOD SIR,

I should have been very glad if your affairs would have permitted you to have stay'd longer in town, when you was with us last,

for then I promised myself, that I should have had a visset from you, and so have look'd over my collection together, in order to have found out what might be suitable for your present purpose. I remember you desired to know what prints we had of our Societies relating to the county of Norfolk, this might be done by looking over our table published; but lest you should not have it, I have set down—

The ruins of Walsingham Priory, Norfolk. No. VIII.

Three Views of St. Bennett's Gate; and No. XIII. XIII.

The Tomb of Robart Colles at Folsham. No. XV.

These, I think, are all our Society have published of that county. You know, and I suppose have, all that has been published by the *Bucks*, in their views of Old Buildings, &c. I spoke to you of the Old City of Norwich, done by my printer, John Day, 1559; and the views of Great Yarmouth, done lately, which you have, &c. There was a sheet printed by Daniel King, with a design to illustrate *Cambden's Britannia*, of very small views; among them you may find *Oldwell, in Norfolk*, (perhaps for *Outwell*.) This seems a large old church. *Castle Acre, in Norfolk*, this only ruins; but perhaps this may be put into some edit. of *Cambden* which you have. I have a vissitation book for that county, among others, done by Smyth Norroy, before 1600, but the arms are poorly tick'd; had been P. Le Neve's. Also I have a MS. of the names and the valuations of their estates  $\text{p}$  annum, who were thought fitt and qualified to be made k<sup>t</sup> of the Royal Oak, now printed in the 5 vol. of the *Barronets of England*, 8<sup>o</sup> 1741. The names of those in that county, if thought needful, shall be transcribed for you. I have some small notes of my own Father's, who was a master of several ships, and dwelt at Yarmouth, relating to that town; but now looking them over, I find nothing very material but what may commonly be found in *Cambden*, or book of the Cinque Ports, so have not transcrib'd them for you. His father or my grandfather was Capt. of several men of war, in the service of the Parliament of England, and who, in the year 1653, presented him with a gold chain and medal for his services with Adm. Blake, and so continued to the Happy Return of King Charles, which ship he commanded, and afterwards was so call'd (Happy Return.) My grandfather then left off the sea,

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and set up brewer at Yarm°. One of the gates, in honour to him is, call'd Ames' Gate to this day. His father's name was John Ames, who died the seventeenth of April, 1647, aged 70 years, baptized the third of March, in St. Peter's Parish, Norwich. His father's name was *Lancelot Ames*. Sometimes I have observed they spelt the sir-name *Amyas*. I ask your pardon in being so free to write to you of my own family, but you know it is natural to enquire concerning what so nearly relates to one, so praying that if anything of this family, worthy remembrance, you'll be so free to communicate it to me. I am obliged by the note sent me by Mr. Vertue, of Anthony Solen or Solnpne, printing at Norwich, 1570, and having his freedom given him, from your book, vol. 2, p. 210; but as I am a writing of printing in England only to the year 1600, if any other printer should appear to you, or any other passage relating to him, it would much oblige me. Perhaps from the City Books of Freedoms or Registers, &c., you may know whether he had any family, partner, or apprentice, or how long he continued, and what books he printed. I have only an acct. of some verses he printed of *Tho<sup>r</sup> Brook's*, before he was executed on the thirtieth of Aug., at Norwich, 1570, and this is the only piece I have at that place, therefore I believe you yourself will think it fitt; and if you please with my humble service to Mr. Thomas Martin, I dare think he will assist you in it what he can, wh'oes favours I have already experienced. Now Sir, I desire you will excuse the tediousness of this letter, and accept the hearty wish of your friend for your health and happiness, is all at present from,

Y<sup>r</sup> most humble Servant at com<sup>d</sup>,

J. AMES.

Thursday, 12th Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1745,

London, near the Hermitage.

P.S.—Mr. Vertue gives his service.

(Addressed)

To the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Blomfeild,

At his House in

Norwich,

Norfolk

The writer of the above letter was born at Great Yarmouth, on the 23rd January, 1688. His father, Mr John Ames, shortly afterwards removed to London, where he died in 1699. Young Ames early evinced a taste for English History and Antiquities. Soon after the appearance of *Palmer's General History of Printing*, in 1732, Mr. Ames was induced to undertake a somewhat similar, but more extended work; and after twenty-five years spent in collecting and arranging his materials, published in 1749 his "*Typographical Antiquities*, being an historical Account of Printing in England, with some Memoirs of our ancient Printers, and a Register of the Books printed by them, from the year 1471 to the year 1600, with an Appendix concerning printing in Scotland and Ireland to the same date;" in one volume, 4to.

In 1736 Mr. Ames was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and in 1741 he became their secretary, and held that office till his death, which took place on the 7th October, 1759.

He left extensive and valuable collections of coins, inscriptions, manuscripts, and books, with some oriental transcripts, all of which were sold by auction.

In the Rev. T. F. Dibdin's edition of the *Typographical Antiquities*, published in 1810, there is an engraved portrait of Mr. Ames; and in the corner of the plate is depicted the medal which is stated in the letter to have been presented to his grandfather, Captain Joseph Ames, for his services during the time of the commonwealth. Captain Ames was the son of Mr. John Ames of Great Yarmouth, and was born there in 1619. But before further mention of him, it may not be uninteresting briefly to notice

the part which was taken by the town of Yarmouth during the memorable contest between King Charles I. and his Parliament.

The levying of taxes under the name of "Ship-money," one of the expedients by which the King attempted to carry on the Government without the aid of Parliament, excited the utmost dissatisfaction in Great Yarmouth.

When therefore, in 1642, proclamations were received from the King forbidding the levying of forces, and a declaration from the Parliament forbidding the publishing of such proclamations, the Corporation or Municipal body (Mr. John Carter and Mr. Robert Gower being then Bailiffs) declared in favour of the Parliament, "as conceiving that to be the most fit way to preserve the public peace both for King and Kingdom;" and the inhabitants raised £2000 in money and plate, which sum was expended in fortifying the town. All the houses adjoining and under the town walls were taken down, the gates locked, and the east leaf of the bridge raised every night. The town being thus placed in a posture of defence, "strong watches by armed men were set by day and by night."

The men of Yarmouth also acted on the aggressive, for they seized several of the ships belonging to the Royalists, some of which they fitted out for the service of the Parliament; but reprisals being made, they "suffered very much at sea, their ships, vessels, and goods being frequently taken and carried away." The town was also heavily assessed towards defraying the expences of the war. The Earl of Warwick, who had gained over the fleet to the cause of the Parliament, for which service he was made Lord High Admiral in 1643, came to Yarmouth to inspect the arrangements made for

the defence of the town. In the following year Col. Russell was sent to Yarmouth as Governor; but upon a remonstrance by the town, Mr. Carter, and five other gentlemen, were included in his commission. In 1645, the Earl of Lauderdale came to Yarmouth, "and was elegantly entertained." In 1648, Colonel Scroope was sent to Yarmouth with a commission to raise a regiment of foot and a troop of horse, and, in the same year, General Ireton (son-in-law of Oliver Cromwell) had interviews with the Bailiffs, at Sir Thomas Wentworth's house at Somerleyton, (now belonging to Mr. Peto) and shortly afterwards Lord Fairfax came to Yarmouth, and left Colonel Barkstead's regiment to garrison the town.

There is a tradition, (mentioned by *Noble*, vol. 2. p. 340) that shortly previous to the trial and execution of the king, a meeting of great secrecy and importance was held by the principal officers of the Parliamentary army in a house on the South Quay, (late the property and residence of John Danby Palmer, Esq., and now of the editor) then belonging to Mr. John Carter,\* at which conference those fatal measures were "finally determined upon."

Miles Corbet, at that time Recorder of Yarmouth, and one of the representatives for the borough in Parliament, was appointed a Commissioner for the trial of the King. He sat as one of the

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\* His son, Mr. Nathaniel Carter, afterwards married Mary, the fourth and youngest daughter of General Ireton, by Bridget, eldest daughter of the Protector. They lived in the house where the meeting above alluded to took place. Bridget, another daughter of General Ireton, married Thomas Bendish, Esq., and resided in Southtown, near Great Yarmouth, in a house now pulled down. Both daughters, with their husbands, are buried in Yarmouth church, where a hatchment, Bendish impaling Ireton, (lately in a torn state, but now renovated by the Church Restoration Committee) still remains. Both families are now extinct in Yarmouth."

judges, and signed the warrant for his Sovereign's execution; immediately after which he sent an order to Yarmouth "forbidding the proclaiming of the Prince of Wales, or any other, to be King."

Barkstead, whose regiment was in garrison at Yarmouth, was also a Commissioner for the trial of the King, and signed the fatal warrant; as did also Ireton and Scroope.\*

At the next assembly of the Corporation, four Aldermen and sixteen Common Councilmen resigned their places; the rest afterwards took the "Engagement" which the new Government had substituted for the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy. They also elected Henry Cromwell, second son of the Protector, High Steward of the Borough.

Mr. Carter, who was Bailiff when the town declared for the Parliament, was again Bailiff in 1651.

In those troublous times Captain Ames, who had entered the navy at an early age, appears to have enjoyed the confidence of the Protector, for in April, 1653, he received a commission (which was long preserved in the family) appointing him "to be Captain of the ship Samuel, whereof Captain Talbot was late Commander."

In this ship he joined Admiral Blake, and on the twenty-ninth of July following they fell in with the Dutch fleet, and two days later a hard-fought battle ensued, which ended in a complete victory. The Dutch were utterly defeated; they lost twenty-six ships, and their Admiral, Van Tromp, was killed.

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\* Colonel William Goffe, another of the regicides, afterwards represented the borough in Cromwell's Parliament; and William Burton, of Yarmouth, whose name has already been mentioned, *see* p. 93, was member for Norfolk in the Parliament of 1658, (in which no representatives sat for boroughs or cities, except London); and in 1656 and 1658 he was returned for Great Yarmouth.

The Parliament then sitting (who were of Cromwell's appointment) ordered gold chains to be sent to Admiral Blake, General Monk, Vice-Admiral Penn, and Rear-Admiral Lawson, and to the rest of the Flag-Officers, and medals to the Captains, and appointed a day of solemn thanksgiving. Monk being then in London, Cromwell, at a great feast in the city, put the gold chain about his neck, and obliged him to wear it all dinner-time.

The gold medals presented to the Captains were executed by that celebrated artist Thomas Symonds, and are engraved by him in *Vertue's Collections of Medals and Coins*. On the obverse there is a representation of the engaged fleet; and on the reverse the arms of the Commonwealth.

It appears that Captain Ames followed the example of his gallant commander, in thinking that "State affairs were not his province, and that it was his business to do his duty to his country, whatever irregularities there might be in the counsels at home." On quitting the naval service he retired to Great Yarmouth, and lived there till his death, which happened on the first of December, 1695.

The medal presented to Capt. Ames was sold at the auction of his grandson's collections for £34. 2s. 6d.

#### PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD.

Weever, who wrote his work on *Ancient Funeral Monuments*, in 1631, in speaking of Yarmouth Church, says, "all the funeral monuments of antiquity in this church are utterly defaced; inscription nor epitaph now remaining."

He farther states, that "Thomas Talbot, sometime Keeper of the Records of the Tower, did collect out of an old calender in a



missal, the names of certain eminent persons, for the souls of whom the religious votaries in and about Yarmouth were bound to pray; the most of which number were buried in the parish church, and in their monasteries as followeth:—

Margaret, the wife of Sir John Fastolfe, daughter of Sir John Holbroke, Knight.

John Fastolfe and Jane his wife.

Richard, Alexander, William, Thomas, and Robert Fastolfe.

Clarence Fastolfe, the wife of Sir Robert Ilketishale, Knight, who died in 1393.

William Ilketishale, their son, Parson of Hedingham, who died the Ides of December, 1412.

John Fastolfe, Doctor in Divinity, a Friar Preacher.

Richard Fastolfe, an Augustine Friar, with many more of that ancient and noble family.

Godfrey Pelegren and his wife.

Thomas the son of Sir Thomas Bowett, Knight.

Jone, the daughter of John Wilshire, and wife of Robert Crowmer."

It was customary, in the 14th century, for testators to make bequests for the purpose of having "masses" offered up for the good of their souls. These were short prayers performed at stated periods, usually on the third, seventh, and thirtieth days after the death, and their number depended upon the amount of the bequest. Thus—

Anselm de Fordele, "a Burgess of the Town of Great Yarmouth," and Bailiff in 1332 and 1337, by his will, dated the 23rd day of May, 1349, gave "five quarters of Barley to be distributed for my soul and the souls of my benefactors, on the day of my burial," and the like quantity on the 7th and 30th days after.

Alice Christion, by her will, dated "on the Thursday next before the Feast of Easter," 1349, directs her "Ship, called the

Katherine, and two boats, with all their tackle, and all my goods and chattels of whatsoever kind" to be sold, and the proceeds applied in "masses and alms-deeds for my soul and the souls to whom I am obliged;" and she desired her executors "to make a dole" on the day of her burial, and "on the 7th and the 30th days," and "to give to every one that comes to the said dole a halfpenny."

Bequests were also made for the maintenance of *annual* masses or *obits* to be chaunted on the anniversary of the death of the testator, either for a stated number of years, or in perpetuity; and as masses for private persons could not be celebrated at the High Altar, numerous Chapels or *Chantries* were erected in the Church (frequently over the tomb of the testator) for this express purpose.\* Seventeen of these Chantries are enumerated by Swinden, in each of which there was an altar and a light; and the position of some of them can still be traced.

John de Brouneswelle, of Great Yarmouth, by his will, dated the 4th day of June, 1349, after bequeathing "to St. Mary's Light twelve pence," gave "ten pounds of silver to celebrate *three annuals* among the Friars Carmelites of Great Yarmouth."

Simon de Stalham, of Great Yarmouth, also gave for "*three annuals* for the souls of me and my parents; and also for the souls of all to whom I am obliged, ten pounds of silver, to be celebrated by three priests;" and to the bellman sixpence per annum to keep the "anniversary" of Testator and his wife for ever.

Other places were also appointed for offering prayers and keeping these "anniversaries," as appears by the following extracts, which also exhibit a singular custom in Yarmouth:—

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\* See p.p. 61 and 68.

Isabel, the wife of Jeffery de Fordele, "a Burgess of Great Yarmouth, and then Bailiff of the same town," by her will, dated the 18th day of May, 1349, bequeaths "to the two Bellmen of the town of Great Yarmouth, and their successors for the time being for ever, sixpence of annual rent," on condition that "they celebrate the anniversary of me and Thomas Sydler, and ring for our souls according to the manner and custom of the said town."

William Okey, of Great Yarmouth, bequeathed "to the Beadmen of the Church of St. Nicholas, two shillings in silver annually, to be received for ever out of my capital Messuage, Brewhouse, and Alehouse, in Great Yarmouth," upon condition that "the said Beadmen shall keep the anniversary of me and Juliana, my late wife (and others) and for them to pray annually for ever *at every head of a row* in the Town of Great Yarmouth."

William Motte, who was Bailiff of Yarmouth in 1345, after bequeathing "two coverlets and a silver cup with a Pelican" to the Friars Carmelites, gave "to the Bellmen and their successors sixpence of an annual rent out of my capital Messuage for ever, to keep my anniversary for ever, and to pray for my soul and the souls of Margaret my wife (and others) *about the town of Great Yarmouth as the manner and custom is.*"

The custom of keeping "Anniversaries" and "Obits" as a religious obligation was introduced into the Church of Rome at an early period. At first they were confined to Saints, Martyrs, and Benefactors; but at last private persons purchased them, in the vain hope of perpetuating their names as well as of obtaining repose for their souls.

## ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

*Probate of Wills.* Previous to the Reformation, frequent mention is made in the Town Rolls of the "Dean of Yarmouth," the "Dean of Flegg and Yarmouth," the "Dean of Yarmouth Church," and the "Dean of St. Nicholas' Church," before whom Wills were proved. There are many entries of presentments made and fines inflicted on this Dignitary, for taking fees "above and contrary to the Statute of the Church," by which it appears that the Yarmouth Magistrates were not slow in enforcing the 31 Edward 1., c. iv., which, after reciting that "the Ministers and Bishops and other Ordinaries take of the people grievous fines for the probate of Testaments," empowers the Justices to inquire "of such oppressions and extortions, and to hear and determine them."

There are very few Yarmouth Wills in the Registries at Norwich, previous to the Reformation; and it is probable that when a will was proved before the "Commissary of the Lord Bishop," instead of the Dean, it related to chattels out of Yarmouth. Probates, which contained bequests to the Church, (and there were few in the middle ages which did not) were usually retained by the Ecclesiastics, and it is to be regretted that these Probates and the Dean's Registry cannot now be found, as their examination would throw light upon the manners and customs of a very early period of our local history, and prove as interesting as the *Extracts from early Norfolk Wills*, communicated to the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society by Henry Harrod, Esq., one of the Secretaries, and published in the first volume of their papers, entitled *Norfolk Archæology*.

*Christmas Breakfast.* The following singular custom prevailed in Great Yarmouth: The Prior and Monks of the Benedictine Priory, yearly on the Feast of the Nativity, provided a Public Breakfast to all the Parishioners who chose to partake thereof.

This was probably a remnant of that "grace of hospitality" for which the monastic institutions were celebrated, but which became so grossly abused, as to lead to the passing of the 3 Edward 1., c. 1., which enacted "that none shall come to eat or lodge in any house of religion at the costs of the house, unless he be required by the governor of the house before his coming thither," except Sheriffs—men of great power in those days, who, however, were not to "lodge with any person with more than five or six horses," and were not to "grieve religious men by often coming and lodging."

This custom of the breakfast survived the Reformation, and continued to be provided by the farmer to the Dean and Chapter (who succeeded the Prior and Monks of Norwich\*) until 1578, when, in consequence of the "grievous plague" by which the town was then visited,† and of "the ruinous condition of the Parsonage House," (which was probably a part of the old monastic buildings) the breakfast was discontinued, and a money payment made instead to the Churchwardens.

After the plague had ceased, the custom was resumed, until 1613, when the farmer refused to provide the breakfast, alleging in his "reasons" the lamentable profanation which ensued in congregating "at least a thousand people, the most part of them being of the rudest and basest sort," upon so sacred a day, when "by the law of our Church, the Communion ought to be ad-

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\* See page 80. † See page 27.

ministered, *which by this disordered meeting is always put by;* the greatest part of them drinking and swaggering until eleven of the clock, going neither to service nor sermon."\*

Happily, in our time, we can scarcely believe that such a state of things could have existed.

The farmer being, as he says, "desirous for the settling of a *sufficient* ministry, and for peace's sake," takes credit to himself in his "reasons" for having "of his own good will" given "one hundred marks and above per annum (£66. 13s. 4d.) towards the maintenance of the preacher and minister," when, says he, with great self-complacency, "other farmers who kept this breakfast gave *not above thirty pounds per annum.*"

The town however insisted upon their right, probably with the view of obtaining a more satisfactory arrangement for a "sufficient ministry," and carried the matter before the Privy Council, who compelled the farmer to make a money payment in lieu of the breakfast.

The town then endeavoured to obtain the nomination of the Minister, by purchasing the lease of the farmer, but in this they were successfully opposed by the Dean and Chapter, who instituted a suit in Chancery and obtained a decree in their favor from Sir Thomas Coventry, Keeper of the Great Seal, founded upon a Certificate granted by Archbishop Laud.

After much unhappy contention, the Municipal body, in 1632, obtained an order from the Privy Council permitting them to appoint and maintain a "Lecturer," who should assist in the celebration of Divine Service, and who should preach on all

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\* Morning Service at that period commenced at half-past eight o'clock.

*Scarlet Days*, being those feast or *Red Letter* days on which the Corporation attended Church in their robes. The Corporation continued to nominate a Lecturer during the succeeding two centuries, but on the death of the Rev. Thomas Baker, the late lecturer, in 1841, the Town-Council discontinued the appointment.

*Fishing Sermon.* It was the custom for the Minister at Great Yarmouth annually, before the commencement of the Herring Fishery, to preach what was called the "Fishing Sermon," in which he endeavoured to impress upon his congregation a sense of the dangers to be encountered by those who were about to "go down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters," and of thankfulness to Divine Providence for the abundance of riches with which our shores abound; for, as Dr. Franklin says, "he who draws up a fish, draws up a piece of silver." Before the Reformation, the Clergy "gave a blessing to the Fishing yearly."

*Christ's Half-Dole.* From the first establishment of a Church at Yarmouth, the Fishermen were accustomed to present to the Chaplain their "oblations and offerings,\*" which probably consisted of a part of the produce of their labour. By the 2 and 3 Edward VI. c. 13, the inhabitants of parishes standing "upon the sea coasts," are stated to have been "used to satisfy their tythes by fish;" and that statute enacts, "that all such parishes shall pay their tithes according to the laudable customs, as they have hitherto done of ancient time, within these forty years used and accustomed, and shall pay their offerings as aforesaid."

In process of time, the proportion of herrings paid to the Church at Great Yarmouth was fixed at half a dole, and was long known as

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\* See page 8.

"Christ's Half-Dole;" and when Yarmouth became the great and almost the exclusive mart of the Herring Fishery, the value of this half-dole was very considerable.

*Church Trees.* There are few Towns in England where the ancient custom of having avenues of trees leading to the Church, is better preserved than in Yarmouth, where five rows are planted on the south side of the Church, immediately opposite the great south porch. It is however grievous to observe, that some of these trees which have decayed by age, have not been replaced, whilst many of the younger ones have been wantonly destroyed.

In former ages, parishioners were extremely anxious for the preservation of the trees in or near their churchyards, insomuch that, in 1307, an Act of Parliament was passed, (35 Edward 1., Stat. 2,) prohibiting "the Parsons of the Church" from "presuming to fell them down unadvisedly."

Surely every inhabitant, whatever his religious opinions may be, ought to lend his aid to prevent the further destruction of this great and singular ornament of the town.

There was formerly a row of trees along the western boundary of the churchyard, and also in the market-place, opposite the butchery.

#### REV. EDWARD WARNES.

Appended to the Manuscript, in the handwriting of *BLOMFIELD*, are extracts from the Will of the Rev. Edward Warnes, "the unworthy servant of the Lord, Rector of Lammas with Hautbois Parva, together with Hautbois Magna," (as he styles himself,) who, "being about to appear before the tremendous judgment seat of Jesus Christ," devised an estate comprising nearly two hundred



and fifty acres of land at Thrigby, in Norfolk, to the Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of Great Yarmouth, in trust to distribute for ever the yearly proceeds thereof among "the poor, man by man, especially the sick, orphans, and widows, and before all others clergymen's widows, yearly in Easter and Christmas weeks, in the presence of the minister of the Church of Great Yarmouth for the time being, or of any one deputed under his hand, and six of the burgesses there." And he ordered a copy of this bequest to be kept in the public chest, and a copy to be read yearly by the Minister in the Church, in the time of, or immediately after divine service, at both the above periods, together with a clause, that if default were made in performing this trust, the estate should go to the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Commonalty of the City of Norwich.

The gross rental of this estate is at present £500 a year.

Mr. Warnes died in 1700, aged 87 years.

### THE TOWN SEAL.

It is not known when this Seal was first used, but probably as early as the thirteenth century. It is called "Saint Nicholas' Seal," because on one side it bears the seated figure of St. Nicholas, attired in his episcopal robes and wearing the mitre. His right hand is uplifted, with the fingers in the gesture of benediction, whilst in his left he holds the pastoral staff. The absence of any canopy, and the form of the throne, lead to the belief that this seal is anterior to the reign of King Edward III.; an angel is represented in the air on each side, censuring the Bishop, who is attired in the Chesible, the principal vestment worn at the celebration of the



TOWN SEAL, GREAT YARMOUTH.



Mass, which hangs gracefully around him, showing the Dalmatic with richly embroidered sleeves and Alb beneath.\*

St. Nicholas, whose festival found admission into our reformed calendar, (6th December) was once held in this country, as he is still on the continent, in the highest veneration. Stripped of the absurd legends by which his history is encumbered, he appears to have been remarkable for piety, meekness, and charity. At a very early age he was consecrated a Bishop, (by divine interposition as it is presumptuously affirmed) while Constantine the Great ruled the Roman empire. He was the patron of children (for which reason it is common in all Roman Catholic countries to make presents to children on his festival) and the protector of virgins. He was also honored as their peculiar saint by sea-faring men of every denomination throughout the Roman Catholic world, and there is scarcely an ancient sea-port along our shores where there is not a Church dedicated to

“ The Bishop Saint Nicholas, whos  
help is ay redie  
To Shipmen in alle cas, when thei  
On him crie.” *Peter of Langtoft.*

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\* The Rev. Richard Hart has, in a Letter addressed to Dawson Turner, Esq. and published by the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, described the Ecclesiastical Vestments worn by the Roman Catholic Clergy, as exemplified in a drawing of a Figure taken from the Rood-loft screen in Ranworth Church, Norfolk, which he thinks was intended for St. Nicholas.

Notice has already been taken, (see page 90) of the Vestments of various colours which formerly belonged to St. Nicholas' Church, at Great Yarmouth. Mr. Hart has explained their symbolical meaning. Thus, WHITE signified *Purity*, and was worn on the Festival of Confessors, Virgins, or Angels; GREEN, BLUE, and RED were respectively the emblems of *Faith*, *Hope*, and *Charity*. RED and PURPLE were worn on the Solemnities of Apostles, Evangelists, and Martyrs, [and from the Vigil of the Pentecost to Trinity

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On the reverse of the Seal is the representation of a Ship, very similar to those depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry, as the vessels which conveyed King William the Conqueror to our shores. It has one mast with a main top, and fore and stern castles; in the latter is a man blowing a trumpet,\* and beneath him is another man steering with a paddle, the rudder and tiller not having been invented till the reign of King Edward III. There are no armorial ensigns, which were not introduced till the time of King Richard I. The Town Council, in 1836, had the good taste to reject a proposal for disusing this very curious proof of the antiquity of the Borough, and of substituting some modern invention.

### JOHN CARTER.

By the kindness of W. C. Ewing, Esq., of Norwich, the Editor is enabled to insert the following form of an oath, which was administered to Mr. John Carter on the fifteenth day of August, 1635, at his admission into "the freedom of the Fellowship of Merchant Adventurers of England," in pursuance of the king's proclamation.

"You sweare to be good and true to our Sovereigne Lord the King that now is, and to his heires and successors, Kings of this Realme. You shalbe obedient and assistant to Mr. Governour or his Deputy and Assistents of

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Sunday. BLACK, of which colour there were several Copes belonging to Yarmouth Church, was according to the same authority rarely used, VIOLET being usually substituted for it. It was however worn on occasion of mourning, and on Good Friday and Rogation Day.

\* In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, every Vessel of War carried a Trumpeter; and after the Battle of Sluys, so great was the noise of Trumpets, Drums, and Cornets, that, according to Froissart, "thunder could not have been heard."

Marcht<sup>e</sup> Adventurers in the parts of Holland, Zealand, Braband, Flanders, &c. : as also in East Friseland, or any other country or place on this and that side of the Seas where the Comp<sup>y</sup> are and shalbe privyledge.

“ All Statuts and Ordinances not repealed w<sup>ch</sup> have bin made or shalbe made by the said Governour or his Deputy Assistents and fellowship of Marchants Adventurers you shall, to your best knowledge, truly hold and keepe, having no singular regarde unto yourselfe in hurt and prejudice of the co<sup>m</sup>on weale of the said fellowship : Or els shall truly from time to time content and pay unto the Treasurer for the time being all and every such mulcts and penalties w<sup>ch</sup> have and shalbe limited and sett for the trangressors and offenders of the same, being convicted by the Governour, or his Deputy and Assistents, and the same orderlye demanded. The secrets and privities of the said fellowship you shall keepe and not betray ; and if you shall know any manner of person or persons w<sup>ch</sup> extend any hurt, harme, or prejudice to our Sovereigne Lord the King, or unto his lands or to the fellowship aforesaid, or privyldges of the same, you shall give knowledge thereof, or doe it to be known to the said Governour or his Deputy. And you shall not colour or free any foreigners goods which is not free of this fellowship of Marchants Adventurers. So helpe you God.”

THO: SKYNNER.

JOHANNE SKYNNER, *Sec<sup>y</sup>*.

The part which Mr. Carter took during the struggle between King Charles I. and his Parliament has already been alluded to.\*

The hostility of the town of Great Yarmouth to the Court may be traced to the disaffection created by the measures which the King adopted to enable him to govern without a Parliament.

In the month of December, 1628, Sir Charles le Gros, Knt., High Sheriff of Norfolk, having received His Majesty's warrant for levying a subsidy or forced loan, directed his summons to the

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\* See p. 124.

Bailiffs of Yarmouth, commanding them "to appear before His Majesty's Commissioners (of whom Sir John Suckling, of Barsham, in Suffolk, was one) at the Palace of the Lord Bishop of Norwich, on the 12th day of January next, by eight of the clock of the morning."

These loans being extremely unpopular, the Bailiffs found great difficulty in procuring the money; and having in vain petitioned the Commissioners for relief, they appointed Mr. Carter their Collector, "who," say they, in a letter to the Privy Council, "hath ever since taken great pains to collect in what he could get." They further state that, on receiving urgent letters from the Privy Council, they "*did quicken all such as were behind in lending; as also the Collector did;*" adding that, "the Collector, not expecting to get in any more money, had resolved to stay no longer than Thursday, *and then to ride up and pay in the moneys in his hands.*" \*

The sum to be collected on this occasion in Yarmouth was £497. 6s. 8d., of which £252. 5s. was paid, with which the Bailiffs entreat the Council to be satisfied, "having," as they said, "performed our utmost endeavours to accomplish His Majesty's pleasure; and we cannot collect or persuade our inhabitants defaulting to pay their loans *without further authority in this behalf.*"

Many knights and gentlemen were already in prison for refusing to contribute, and in order to avoid the inconsistency of enforcing by such means the performance of that which was presumed to be voluntary, the advisers of the Crown revived the dormant right, which they asserted the King had, to require the maritime places of his kingdom to supply him with ships of war, and for which he allowed them to compound.

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\* There were neither Banks nor Railways in those days!

The collection of a tax for a purpose for which it was not in fact required, in order to provide an unpopular government with money, was peculiarly obnoxious in Yarmouth, where it pressed with great severity; as the inland towns did not at first contribute, although they were afterwards compelled to do so. Many remonstrances were made, and when, at last, the King was compelled to call his last Parliament, one of its first acts was to declare this impost to be "against the laws of the realm, the subjects' right of property, contrary to former resolutions of Parliament, and to the petition of right."

Edward Owner, an influential inhabitant of the town, and Miles Corbet, the town's Recorder, were returned as Burgesses to this Parliament, in opposition to Sir John Suckling and Sir H. Martin, the court candidates, who were recommended by the Earl of Dorset, then High Steward.

In 1641, Parliament claimed the right of raising money for the suppression of the rebellion in Ireland, and published proposals, offering the lands which would escheat to the crown by forfeiture of treason, to those who should subscribe.\* Mr. Carter being then Bailiff of Yarmouth, promoted a subscription by the Municipal body which amounted to £600, he himself subscribing £15. This, says Clarendon, was "a measure of men's affections, and a trial how far they might be trusted and relied upon."

When in 1642 the King raised his standard at Nottingham, the inhabitants of Yarmouth, in compliance with the "Propositions"

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\* In 1653 an act was passed "for the speedy and effectual satisfaction of the adventurers for lands in Ireland," under which 1150a. 3r. 4p. of land in the county of Tipperary were allotted to the town of Great Yarmouth. This estate (unfortunately leased for a long term) is now vested in the Charity Trustees, for the benefit of the Children's Hospital.



of Parliament, brought in "moneys and plate for the payment of soldiers and providence of horses, arms, and ammunition for the defence of King and Parliament." On this occasion, Mr. Bailiff Carter subscribed "in plate and forty-eight pieces of eight," £25. Mr. William Burton subscribed, among other things, "one best spoon, weighing 59 oz. at 5*d.* per oz., and 4*d.* per oz. for the fashion."\*

On the twenty-ninth of November, 1643, "a treaty," says Rushworth, "was finally concluded between England and Ireland; the principal articles of which were, that Scotland should provide an army of 18,000 foot and 3000 horse; that the English Parliament should pay £30,000 monthly towards the expence of the army, and that they should advance the sum of £100,000 to enable it to commence its march."

The latter sum was raised by a voluntary loan; and on the 20th of February, 1644, a Meeting was held in Norwich for the purpose of raising £6000 in Norfolk. Mr. Carter was a contributor, as is proved by the following receipt,† which is still extant.

The first day of May, 1644.

Received the day and yeare above written by me, whose name is subscribed (being Treasurer for raising of money towards the payment of the hundred thousand pounds agreed to be forthwith advanced for our brethren of Scotland, towards payment of their Army raised for our assistance,) the summe of eight pounds of Mr. John Carter, Alderman, dwelling in the parish of Yarmouth, in the County of Norfolke, which is to be repaid to the said

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\* See p. 93. The value of the "fashion" was ascertained on each article, and £1 per cent. was allowed thereon.

† This receipt, with an original copy of the oath, are in the possession of Mr. Alcock, of Norwich. The same Gentleman possesses the worked jacket which was worn by Bailiff Carter. It was exhibited in the Museum of the Archaeological Institute, at Norwich, in 1847.

John Carter, or his assigns, with interest after the rate of eight pounds per cent : for the speedy repayment whereof, the publick faith of both nations is engaged. I say, received the some of eight pounds.

THO. JOHNSON.

In 1648, Mr. Carter subscribed to the "National Covenant," and he was one of those who took the "Engagement" to the Commonwealth after the execution of the King. Previous to the King's trial there had been, says Clarendon, on the authority of some officers who were present, "many secret consults what to do with him," one of which, and the final one, if we may believe tradition, was held in Mr. Carter's house.

At the Restoration, he probably retired from all interference with municipal affairs, as his name is not in the Charter granted to the town by King Charles II. He did not, therefore, compromise his principles as many did ; neither was he molested by the ruling party.

In private life, he was, as an inscription on his portrait states, "sincere and pious, a lover of liberty of conscience, and suffered much to favor his friends in those troublesome times, his house being always open to the oppressed."

He was one of the "Elders" of the Presbyterian Congregation, and dying in 1667, aged 73, was buried in Yarmouth Church.

A skeleton, which he always kept by him to remind him of death, is represented in his portrait, which has been engraved from the original picture in the possession of Mr. Alcock.

His son, Mr. Nathaniel Carter,\* who was the last of "a family which has been venerable in this town for ages," as his epitaph records, left an estate at Ormesby for the benefit of "poor relations."

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\* See p. 125.

## SALUBRITY OF YARMOUTH.

- The following is an extract from the History of Manship the younger.

“Although by the secret will of God there is no nation so temperate but that it is subject to corruption of air, when his Divine Majesty shall be pleased therewith; yet most certain it is, and all cosmographers and astrologers do conclude, *that* air to be the most pure from corruption which is purged by the East winds. The reason is, for that the first light of heaven and the first rising of the sun is from the East, which therefore first on the earth doth disperse the mist and vapours from off the earth; whereby it purgeth and cleanseth the air. And the beams of the sun following, do make all things fruitful and pleasant; and, as Constantine saith, East winds be wholesome in the beginning of the day, for they come of air that is subtle and temperate, between cold and moist; therefore such a wind maketh waters clear and of a good savour, and they keep and save bodies in health by temperature of their qualities. Also divers streams that run eastward and enter into the east sea, be better and more wholesome and clear than the other; and by beating and rebounding of the sun on his rising, waters be made clear and clean. But to ground neither upon astrologers, astronomers, nor cosmographers, the very Word of God approveth it, for Paradise, or the garden where our first parents were placed, and the land of promise which did flow with milk and honey, are said to be seated in the east. Now the town of Yarmouth, being built north and south, doth in the whole longitude thereof spread itself directly along the east, taking thereby as it were a full possession of the benefit before

remembered. It must needs therefore be concluded that Yarmouth is a town as wholesome for situation as any town in the kingdom. Myself have known many who, by the advice of very expert and learned physicians, have been sent from Cambridge to Yarmouth, there to remain to take the air of the sea, whereby they have recovered health very speedily."

Dr. Robertson of the Royal Military Lunatic Asylum at Great Yarmouth, in an interesting Lecture delivered at the Young Man's Institute, states, that, tested by the relative rate of mortality, the salubrity of this town is as great as Devonshire, *and higher than that of any other town in England*; the proportionate annual mortality being one in fifty-six only, whilst that of all England is one in forty-five, and that of Liverpool one in twenty-eight. The average duration of life in Yarmouth is thirty-two years, (which is beyond the average of all other towns in England of equal extent) whilst in Liverpool it is only seventeen years.

The number of "Rows," already mentioned, have a beneficial effect in thoroughly ventilating the more densely-populated parts of the town within the walls.

An inhabitant named Luke Waller, died in 1823, aged one hundred and three years, having retained his faculties but little impaired to the last.

In 1845, Mr. Wicksteed, C. E., suggested, that an abundant supply of pure water might be obtained, both for domestic purposes and for scouring the public sewers (without which no perfect drainage can be effected), by forming a large reservoir on the high land at Burgh, to be supplied by natural springs, occasionally assisted by the fresh water brought down by the River Waveney. A Bill in

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Parliament was prepared, but the project was discouraged and is still in abeyance.

### ADMIRALS OF THE NORTH.

Since the preceding notes were printed, a perusal of "*The History of the Royal Navy*," by Sir Harris Nicholas, has enabled the Editor to add the names of two Yarmouth men to the list of "Admirals of the North."

ROBERT ASHMAN, a Burgess of Great Yarmouth, was, on the 23rd of May, 1319, appointed an Admiral and Captain of "the ships going against the Scots." These vessels, besides the master, had one or two "constables,"\* and from thirty-nine to fifty-four men each; the admiral's ship was called the "Michael of Great Yarmouth." Ashman was Bailiff of Yarmouth in 1316, 1322, 1324, and 1327, as were others of his family about the same period.

HENRY RANDOLF, a Burgess of Great Yarmouth, was, on the 6th of April, 1333, appointed "Captain and Admiral of all ships in the King's service, going to Scotland." He was succeeded by Sir John de Norwich.† Randolf was Bailiff of Great Yarmouth in 1333; and the name frequently occurs in the previous list of bailiffs.

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\* They are supposed to have been petty officers, to whom the discipline of the ship was intrusted. Their pay was sixpence a day, the same as was paid to horse and foot archers. Sailors received three-pence a day, which was more than foot soldiers, who had but twopence. The admiral of the northern fleet, in 1327, received five shillings a day, with other allowances.

† Sir John de Norwich built Mettingham Castle, in Suffolk. This family became extinct in 1374, when their large possessions in Norfolk and Suffolk came to the Uffords, Earls of Suffolk, by whom the office of "Lord Admiral" was frequently held.

The assistance rendered to the state by the town of Great Yarmouth, in providing ships and men for the public service, from a very early period, was very considerable. At this port, our Plantaganet Kings sought for aid, whether for defence or aggression, and exercised their assumed prerogative of seizing the vessels of private persons whenever the exigencies of the state were deemed sufficient to require them; the owners, however, being compensated for the detention of their property.

In 1205, a list was made of all the galleys or vessels of war that were ready for service, by which it appears that London had five, whilst Great Yarmouth and Bristol had each three. In this year, Yarmouth and the adjoining ports were required to man two galleys with "seven score mariners," who were to have a moiety of what they might take from the enemy.

In 1242, Yarmouth was required to provide three of her best ships with six boats and one galley, sufficiently manned and armed for the defence of the coast.

In 1295, the Yarmouth Fleet, under the command of Sir John Botetourt, comprised fifty-three vessels. The French made an attempt this year to invade England with a fleet of four hundred ships, but the project miscarried; and the men of Yarmouth putting to sea, proceeded to the town of Cherburgh, in Normandy, which they captured and burnt.

In the following year, whilst King Edward I. was engaged in subduing Scotland, intelligence was received that above one thousand men of Flanders, disguised as fishermen, were preparing to attack and burn Yarmouth; whereupon orders were sent to the bailiffs to collect their ships, and Sir John Botetourt was directed to proceed in person to their assistance.

The feuds which were carried on between the men of Yarmouth and those of the Cinque Ports, often led to acts of the most lawless violence, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the crown to prevent them. In 1297, when King Edward I. passed into Flanders to assist the Count against the King of France, the men of the western and northern fleets, "through an old grudge long depending between them," fought on the sea with great fury, until many of their ships were sunk, a great number of mariners slain, and much valuable property destroyed.\* A grievous requital was not long after made by the men of Yarmouth, against the Portmen.†

By a mandate subsequently sent by Sir Thomas de St. Omer,‡ sheriff of Norfolk, to the bailiffs of Yarmouth, it appears that an amercement amounting to one thousand marks had been inflicted by the King upon Alexander Fastolf, Bartholomew de Thorpe, John Elys, Henry Randolf, Thomas de Drayton, Richard de Beketon, John de Norwich, and other inhabitants of Yarmouth, for "sundry trespasses and other misdeeds by them upon the sea-coast enormously perpetrated."

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\* One cause of dispute was the right claimed by the Port men to enjoy certain privileges, such as "strand" and "den," and to levy certain tolls or duties, such as "fire-pence" from each ship, for "sustaining the fires at the places accustomed for security of the arrival of ships by night," during the annual free fair. To define these privileges King Edward I. published a "Dite," in which is this curious passage respecting certain frequenters of fairs. "En droit de menestreux et de femmes de vie, dions et volons que noz barons des portez, ne ceux de Gernemue, rien ne preignent." *Fodera*, vol. 3. p. 744.

† Nicholas. Swinden.

‡ The family of St. Omer held lands at Mulbarton, in Norfolk, from an early period; and Sir Thomas de St. Omer charged them with a perpetual annuity to the *pittances* of Norwich Cathedral, to keep his anniversary and to treat the Convent on that day; which that official did by expending 13s. 4d. in wine, and providing almonds and raisins for the prior and monks.

In 1304, King Edward I. paid the arrears of wages due to the masters of two barges belonging to Yarmouth, by giving them one which he had built at Newcastle.

In 1308, Yarmouth was directed to send "good ships" for the defence of Berwick against the Scots; and in the following year the bailiffs were required to provide two ships, with forty men each, for the defence of Perth.

A general system of piracy appears to have existed at this time, which the Government had not sufficient power to restrain; and the merchants both of France and England were plundered indiscriminately.

In 1308, the King of England complained to the King of France that the goods of Hugo de Beketon and others, merchants of Great Yarmouth, had been piratically seized in the ports of Normandy, and demanded redress;\* and a few years afterwards William de Forbernard, a merchant of Gascony, complained that he had laden the ship of John Perbroun, of Yarmouth, called the "Pater Noster," with wines, and that when off the Foreland, she had been met by persons in the King's service, who had forcibly taken out part of her cargo.

In 1315, one hundred foot soldiers and sailors were ordered to be levied in Norfolk, and sent with their arms in the King's ship called the "Christopher of Yarmouth," belonging to Lord Bote-tourt's fleet; and in 1323 Yarmouth furnished twenty ships for an expedition against Scotland.

It was usual for the King to summon those persons to his Council who were best qualified to give information as to the num-

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\* *Fœdera.*



ber of vessels that could be furnished by the principal ports ; and in 1326, John Perbroun and Sir John Sturmy\* were ordered to attend the King for this purpose ; and in the following year Perbroun was instructed to select forty vessels, capable of carrying sixty tuns of wine each, to proceed against Scotland.

In 1333, John Perbroun of Great Yarmouth, was appointed " Captain and Admiral of the King's fleet, for the Scottish War," with power " to punish and chastise all sailors and others in the fleet, and to impress four ships of war, men, mariners, armour, and all other necessities for the expedition."

In 1335, the bailiffs of Yarmouth (John Perbroun, Richard Fastolf, Thomas de Drayton, and Robert Ellys,†) were instructed to send their ships to capture and destroy some vessels of war belonging to the Scots, then lying at Calais. In the following year, the war against Scotland was vigorously prosecuted ; and Sir Thomas Ughtred was appointed " Captain and Admiral of the Ships of Yarmouth, and of the North fleet ;" and in the same year, Sir Edward Charles, of Loddon,‡ was " Captain and Admiral of the fleet, from the Thames to Berwick upon Tweed."

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\* Sir John Sturmy was Admiral of the North in 1324, and in the following year he, with Sir Nicholas Kyriel, and Sir John Felton, were " Admirals of the three seas of England." The Sturmys were an old Norfolk family, holding lands at Surlingham, Stratton, and other places.

† He was Burgess in Parliament in 1328, and the name frequently occurs in the old records of the town. Anthony Ellys, Bishop of St. David's, was born at Great Yarmouth in 1691, where his father was a merchant. Yarmouth also furnished another member to the Episcopate in the person of Nicholas Felton, bishop of Ely, who was born in 1563, and was one of the prelates employed by King James I. in the new translation of the Bible. The name frequently occurs in the list of bailiffs.

‡ There was a Manor in Loddon called " Charles' Manor." This family were also called de Jernemutha.

In 1337, the Yarmouth fleet, consisting of twenty-nine men of war, under the command of Sir John Roos, proceeded to Dort, and conveyed the Bishop of Lincoln, the Earl of Salisbury, and the Earl of Huntingdon\* (the King's plenipotentiaries at the Court of Hainault) to England; and whilst so employed, they fell in with and took two Flemish ships, bound to Scotland with men, money, and provisions, with the Bishop of Glasgow on board, who soon afterwards died of his wounds.

In the following year, the North fleet, under the command of Sir Walter Manny, K. G. (that bright ornament of chivalry "whose memory the very worms dare not assault,"†) rendezvoused at Great Yarmouth, and was employed to convey the Earl of Lancaster and his troops to the King, at Antwerp; and on the 28th of July, Thomas de Drayton‡ a Burgess of Great Yarmouth, was appointed "Admiral of the North." A very gallant action was soon afterwards fought by the "Christopher" and the "Edward," which vessels were returning with rich cargoes from Flanders, in company with three smaller vessels, against a French Squadron. Drayton was directed to arrest ships, men, and stores, and to send them to sea, to protect the vessels laden with wool, proceeding to the King in Flanders; and the custody of the town was entrusted to John Bardolf and Sir Robert de Morley

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\* The "Christopher" was on this occasion, according to the custom of the times, furnished with the banners of the arms of the Bishop and Earls as well as of the Admiral. These banners were one ell and three-quarters long and two cloths wide. The banner of the King's arms was nine ells long and three cloths wide.—*Nicholas*.

† Froissart.

‡ He was Bailiff of Yarmouth eight times between 1332 and 1356, and the name very frequently occurs in the list of Bailiffs from the year 1273. He was Burgess in Parliament for Great Yarmouth, in 1335, 1336, and 1346; as was Robert de Drayton, in 1326. See p. 64.

In January, 1340, King Edward III. assumed the title of King of France; and in the following month, John Perbroun, Henry Randolf, Thomas Sidler, Robert Elys, John Elys, and Bartholomew de Thorpe, were summoned from Great Yarmouth, "de essendo coram concilio, super arduis et urgentissimis negotiis."\* In June, the famous battle of Sluys was fought, in which the Yarmouth-men did "most worthy service." The North fleet, consisting of about fifty sail, was commanded by Sir Robert de Morley,† whose ship was the first vessel engaged. The French were entirely defeated, and Nash, in his *Lenten Stuffe*, says, that the Yarmouth-men "so slashed and sliced them, that their best mercy was fire and water, which have no mercy." Sir Harris Nicholas has published an original letter from King Edward III., to his son, the Duke of Cornwall, describing this most sanguinary and desperate fight, printed from a copy recently discovered among the archives of the city of London, and being the earliest dispatch that is known containing an account of a naval victory. In 1341, Sir John Howard, Lord Bardolf, and Sir John de Thorpe,‡ were appointed Commissioners to array the county of Norfolk; and in the following year, King Edward III. embarked on board the Yarmouth squadron on his expedition to Brittany,§ but whilst he lay entrenched before

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\* Fodera, 2. p. 1115.

† An antient Shield, bearing the arms of Morley, has recently been discovered upon the ceiling of Yarmouth Church.

‡ Also a Shield bearing the arms of Thorpe, impaled by a coat supposed to be Boys.

§ Robert Lord Scales, of Middleton Castle, in Norfolk, whose shield of arms has recently been discovered on the ceiling of Yarmouth Church, was summoned to attend the King in this expedition, with ten men at arms and ten archers, and was afterwards required to attend at the siege of Calais, "with all the power he could raise, without staying for the embarkation of his horses."—*Blomefield*.

Middleton now belongs to Thomas Wythe, Esq.

Vannes, the English ships were attacked by a large fleet, under Prince Lewis of Spain, and were compelled to retire to the English coast. On the King's return, he sent a mandate to Sir William Trussell,\* Admiral of the North, requiring the captains of twenty Yarmouth ships † to attend the King in Council, to answer for their conduct.

When the King "won Calais," in 1347, after the garrison had made a gallant defence for more than twelve months, he received very important assistance from Great Yarmouth.‡ Sir John Howard was then Admiral of the North; and among the knights at this siege, who possessed estates in Norfolk, were John Lord Bardolf§ Sir Hugh Spencer,¶ Sir Roger Nevill, Sir Hugh Hastings, Sir Roger L'Estrange, Sir William Gorney, Sir William Felton, Sir Miles Stapleton, Sir John Beauchamp, Sir John Ward, and many others. The memorable battle of "L'Espagnols sur Mer," was fought in 1350, and gained for the King the proud title of "King of the Sea."

In 1371, Henry Rose was appointed Captain and Keeper of the Town || of Great Yarmouth

In 1375, Thomas Palmer had a license to seize some vessels

\* The Trussells obtained large possessions at Wayborn, in Norfolk, by a marriage with the daughter and one of the co-heiresses of Sir Warine de Meynwaryn. Sir Edward Trussell, the last heir male, died in 1499, leaving an only daughter, who married John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

† Six of these vessels were called "The Nicholas." There is no vessel now belonging to the port, so called.

‡ See p. 70.

§ A shield, bearing the arms of Bardolf, has also been found on the ceiling of Yarmouth Church. John, Lord Bardolf, died in 1370, possessed of the Manor and Honour of Wormegay, in Norfolk, to which twenty knight's fees were attached.

¶ Another antient shield bears the arms of Spencer, the bordure sprinkled with mitres, for the "warlike" Bishop of Norwich. See p. 73.

|| Fœdera, vol. iii, p. 924.

lying at Blakeney, and to employ them in transporting provisions and stores for the King's service in Scotland.

In August, 1375, the English fleet, which had landed Sir Thomas Felton, seneschal of Gascony, at Bordeaux, and Sir William Elman, governor of Bayonne, at that city, relying upon a truce which had then recently been concluded with Spain, proceeded to the bay in Brittany, and took in valuable cargoes for England. Before they put to sea, they were attacked by the Spanish fleet, which captured and burnt thirty-nine English vessels, of which six belonged to Great Yarmouth, all having valuable cargoes on board. They were,

The Nicholas,	100 Tons,	Symond Cappe,	Master.
The Bartholomew	80 „	Bartholomew Nogan,	„
The Nicholas	100 „	Hugh Fastolf	„
The Margaret	60 „	John Beverley	„
The Garland	50 „	Thomas Cobald	„
The James	60 „	William Copyn	„

The unfortunate merchants petitioned the crown for redress, and in the following year preparations were made to avenge this flagrant violation of the law of nations. Sir William Neville, Lord Admiral of the North, was ordered to impress ships and mariners, but the reign of King Edward III., so glorious in our naval annals, was fast drawing to a close; the aged monarch, afflicted by the loss of the Black Prince, who died in 1376, was unable to meet his enemies at sea, and the truce with Spain was renewed.

In 1447, the office of Comptroller of the Customs at Yarmouth, was given to Ralph Wadiswyke, for taking Lord Dolfemond, a French officer, prisoner.

In 1596, when the kingdom had recovered from the alarm occasioned by the Spanish Armada, Yarmouth furnished a ship of war towards an attack upon Spain, and received a large proportion of the plunder of Cadiz, against which place the expedition was principally directed.

In conclusion, it may be remembered that, in more modern times, Norfolk has produced one of the greatest naval commanders the world ever saw, LORD NELSON of the Nile; and that Lord Duncan and Sir Richard Onslow, after the glorious victory of Camperdown, returned in triumph to Yarmouth Roads, which, during the last war, again became the rendezvous of the North-sea fleet.

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 SLOMAN, Printer, King-Street, Great Yarmouth.



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#### CORREGENDA.

- p. 24, line 1, for "Strewes" read "Stewes."  
 41 „ 17, for "were" read "there."  
 79 „ 10, close the parenthesis after the word Editor, instead of after  
 Gaol-street.







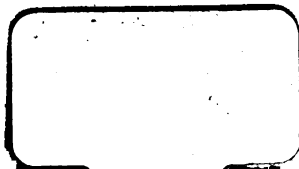


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